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Lewis A. Harding



HISTORY  
OF  
DECATUR COUNTY  
INDIANA

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

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LIBERT  
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Editor

Member The American Historical Association; author, "The Preliminary  
Diplomacy of the Spanish-American War," a study in international  
law, "The Call of the Hour," "A Few Spoken Words," etc.

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With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

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ILLUSTRATED

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## DEDICATION.

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The historian, who, as Schlegel says, is "a prophet looking backwards," in these jubilee days of Indiana's first centennial, respectfully dedicates this work both to the memory of the pioneers of Decatur county and those departed, to keep their memory fragrant, and to the people of the future for the inspiration this record may be to those who follow in the never-ending flight of future days.



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## EDITOR'S PREFACE

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In writing the history of a county, the local historian is confined to a relatively small unit and is not expected to go outside the limits of the county except so far as to make explanatory the relation of the county to contiguous counties or to the state at large. The historian is also handicapped by all the tradition which is handed down through succeeding generations, traditions with little or no historical background and bordering on the romantic. While tradition is often connected with history, it does not often carry with it the substratum of fact which should characterize real historical narrative. Personal feelings and quixotic whims find expression in the tales of our forbears and are repeated so often that they are finally accepted as the truth. The purpose of the editor of this history is to separate fiction from fact; to present in a simple and succinct manner those facts which will show the place of Decatur county among its sister counties in the state; to preserve for future generations the story of the privations and hardships which confronted our good forefathers almost a century ago.

The editor, prior to this time, had gathered a lot of mis-information as to the early events of eastern Indiana, and especially as to that part of the state now included within Decatur county. However, careful investigation has proven that in most instances such supposed facts were nothing more than romantic tales, interesting, but with no basis of truth. Thus the editor of this history was deprived of what he had considered a large amount of valuable historical data, but in the elaboration of this work it has been the constant aim to get exact historical information. This history is an attempt to present the real truth about the growth of the county, and every event which would not stand the historical test has been discarded. Thus, many tales of romance are necessarily omitted; many supposed facts have been found to be without the semblance of truth, and hence find no place in this volume.

This history seeks to give such a review of the origin and development of the county as will make it possible for the people of today and of the future to appreciate the lives and labors of those who have made this

county what it is now. We are proud of its towns, its broad cultivated fields, its schools and churches, its beautiful homes. People take a pardonable pride in living in a county where peace and harmony dwell, where the people enjoy those blessings vouchsafed to them by the laws of an indulgent nation.

In order that the present generation may breathe the same spirit which animated the pioneers of this county, it is necessary to go back to the time when the Indian roamed this part of the state; when the beaver plied his trade unmolested by the white man; when the uncut forest and undrained swamps presented more terrors than the wild inhabitants thereof. It will be necessary to tell of the time when France had control of this territory and of the time when England drove the French from this country. The Revolutionary War bears on the history of Decatur county and it comes in for a share of attention; the War of 1812 is still closer allied with the history of the county and it is briefly noticed.

We have tried to recite these facts so that the coming generations may become familiar with them and thereby have a clearer understanding of the sterling men and women who have preceded them. May this presentation imbue us with a greater love for our county, our state and our nation, and may we highly resolve that the achievements of the past shall inspire the present and future generations in Decatur county to still higher and greater achievements.

LEWIS A. HARDING.



# FOREWORD

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All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and sacrifice. The deeds and motives of the men who have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and state. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Decatur county, Indiana, with what they were one hundred years ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin land, it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, grand educational institutions, splendid industries and valuable agricultural and mineral productions. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. A specially valuable and interesting department is that one devoted to the sketches of representative citizens of this county whose records deserve preservation because of their worth, effort and accomplishment. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to the persons who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Decatur county for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "History of Decatur County, Indiana," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted for corrections to the party interested, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our effort to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS.





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# HISTORICAL

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## CHAPTER I.

### RELATED STATE HISTORY.

The first white men to set foot upon the Northwest Territory were French traders and missionaries under the leadership of La Salle. This was about the year 1670 and subsequent discoveries and explorations in this region by the French gave that nation practically undisputed possession of all the territory organized in 1787 as the Northwest Territory. It is true that the English colonies of Virginia, Connecticut and Massachusetts claimed that their charters extended their grants westward to the Mississippi river. However, France claimed this territory and successfully maintained possession of it until the close of the French and Indian War in 1763. At that time the treaty of Paris transferred all of the French claims east of the Mississippi river to England, as well as all claims of France to territory on the mainland of North America. For the next twenty years the Northwest Territory was under the undisputed control of England, but became a part of the United States by the treaty which terminated the Revolutionary War in 1783. Thus the flags of three nations have floated over the territory now comprehended within the present state of Indiana—the tri-color of France, the union jack of England and the stars and stripes of the United States.

History will record the fact that there was another nation, however, which claimed possession of this territory and, while the Indians can hardly be called a nation, yet they made a gallant fight to retain their hunting grounds. The real owners of this territory struggled against heavy odds to maintain their supremacy and it was not until the battle of Tippecanoe, in the fall of 1811, that the Indians gave up the unequal struggle. Tecumseh, the Washington of his race, fought fiercely to save this territory for his people, but the white man finally overwhelmed him, and "Lo, the poor Indian" was pushed westward across the Mississippi. The history of the Northwest

Territory is full of the bitter fights which the Indians waged in trying to drive the white man out and the defeat which the Indians inflicted on general St. Clair on November 4, 1792, will go down in the annals of American history as the worst defeat which an American army ever suffered at the hands of the Indians. The greatest battle which has ever been fought in the United States against the Indians occurred in the state of Ohio. This was the battle of Fallen Timbers and occurred August 20, 1794, the scene of the battle being within the present county of Defiance. After the close of the Revolutionary War the Indians, urged on by the British, caused the settlers in the Northwest Territory continued trouble and defeated every detachment sent against them previous to their defeat by Gen. Anthony Wayne at the battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794. Although there was some trouble with the Indians after this time, they never offered serious resistance after this memorable defeat until the fall of 1811, when Gen. William Henry Harrison completely routed them at the battle of Tippecanoe.

#### TERRITORY NORTHWEST OF THE OHIO (1670-1754).

Ohio was the first state created out of the old Northwest Territory, although Indiana had been previously organized as a territory. When the land comprehended within the Northwest Territory was discovered by the French under La Salle about 1670, it was a battle ground of various Indian tribes, although the Eries, who were located along the shores of Lake Erie, were the only ones with a more or less definite territory. From 1670 to 1763, the close of the French and Indian War, the French were in possession of this territory and established their claims in a positive manner by extensive exploration and scattered settlements. The chief centers of French settlement were at Detroit, Vincennes, Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Fort Crevecoeur and at several missionary stations around the shores of the great lakes. The French did not succeed in doing this without incurring the hostility of the Iroquois Indians, a bitter enmity which was brought about chiefly because the French helped the Shawnees, Wyandots and Miamis to drive the Iroquois out of the territory west of the Muskingum river in Ohio.

It must not be forgotten that the English also laid claim to the Northwest Territory, basing their claim on the discoveries of the Cabots and the subsequent charters of Virginia, Massachusetts and Connecticut. These charters extended the limits of these three colonies westward to the Pacific ocean, although, as a matter of fact, none of the three colonies made a settlement west of the Alleghanies until after the Revolutionary War. New York

sought to strengthen her claim to territory west of the Alleghanies in 1701, by getting from the Iroquois, the bitter enemies of the French, a grant to the territory from which the French and their Indian allies had previously expelled them. Although this grant was renewed in 1726 and again confirmed in 1744, it gave New York only a nominal claim and one which was never recognized by the French in any way.

English traders from Pennsylvania and Virginia began in 1730 to pay more attention to the claims of their country west of the Alleghanies and north of the Ohio river. When their activities reached the ears of the French the governor of French Canada sent Céleron de Bienville up and down the Ohio and the rivers and streams running into it from the north and took formal possession of the territory by planting lead plates at the mouth of every river and stream of any importance. This peculiar method of the French in seeking to establish their claims occurred in the year 1749 and opened the eyes of England to the necessity of taking some immediate action. George II, the king of England at the time, at once granted a charter for the first Ohio Company (there were two others by the same name later organized), composed of London merchants and enterprising Virginians, and the company at once proceeded to formulate plans to secure possession of the territory north of the Ohio and west of the Mississippi. Christopher Gist was sent down the Ohio river in 1750 to explore the country as far west as the mouth of the Scioto river, and made several treaties with the Indians. Things were now rapidly approaching a crisis and it was soon evident that there would be a struggle of arms between England and France for the disputed region. In 1754 the English started to build a fort at the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers, on the site of the present city of Pittsburgh, but before the fort was completed the French appeared on the scene, drove the English away and finished the fort which had been begun.

#### FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR (1754-63).

The crisis had finally come. The struggle which followed between the two nations ultimately resulted in the expulsion of the French from the mainland of America as well as from the immediate territory in dispute. The war is known in America as the French and Indian War and in the history of the world as the Seven Years' War, the latter designation being due to the fact that it lasted that length of time. The struggle developed into a world-wide conflict and the two nations fought over three continents, America, Europe and Asia. It is not within the province of this resume of



the history of Indiana to go into the details of this memorable struggle. It is sufficient for the purpose at hand to state that the treaty of Paris, which terminated the war in 1763, left France without any of her former possessions on the mainland of America.

#### PONTIAC'S CONSPIRACY (1763-64).

With the English in control of America east of the Mississippi river and the French regime forever ended, the Indians next command the attention of the historian who deals with the Northwest Territory. The French were undoubtedly responsible for stirring up their former Indian allies and Pontiac's conspiracy must be credited to the influence of that nation. This formidable uprising was successfully overthrown by Henry Bouquet, who led an expedition in 1764 into the present state of Ohio and compelled the Wyandots, Delawares and Shawnees to sue for peace.

#### NORTHWEST TERRITORY AND QUEBEC ACT.

From 1764 to 1774, no events of particular importance occurred within the territory north of the Ohio river, but in the latter year (June 22, 1774), England, then at the breaking point with the colonies, passed the Quebec act, which attached this territory to the province of Quebec for administrative purposes. This intensified the feeling of resentment which the colonies bore against their mother country and is given specific mention in their list of grievances which they enumerated in their Declaration of Independence. The Revolutionary War came on at once and this act, of course, was never put into execution.

#### REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD (1775-83).

During the War for Independence (1775-1783), the various states with claims to western lands agreed with the Continental Congress to surrender their claims to the national government. In fact, the Articles of Confederation were not signed until all of the states had agreed to do this and Maryland withheld her assent to the articles until March 1, 1780, on this account. In accordance with this agreement New York ceded her claim to the United States in 1780, Virginia in 1784, Massachusetts in 1785 and Connecticut in 1786, although the latter state excepted a one-hundred-and-twenty-mile strip of three million five hundred thousand acres bordering on Lake Erie. This

strip was formally relinquished in 1800, with the understanding that the United States would guarantee the titles already issued by that state. Virginia was also allowed a reservation, known as the Virginia Military District, which lay between the Little Miami and Scioto rivers, the same being for distribution among her Revolutionary veterans. There is one other fact which should be mentioned in connection with the territory north of the Ohio in the Revolutionary period. This was the memorable conquest of the territory by Gen. George Rogers Clark. During the years 1778 and 1779, this redoubtable leader captured Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes and thereby drove the English out of the Northwest Territory. It is probable that this notable campaign secured this territory for the Americans and that without it we would not have had it included in our possessions in the treaty which closed the Revolutionary War.

#### CAPTURE OF VINCENNES.

One of the most interesting pages of Indiana history is concerned with the capture of Vincennes by Gen. George Rogers Clark in the spring of 1779. The expedition of this intrepid leader with its successful results marked him as a man of more than usual ability. Prompted by a desire to secure the territory northwest of the Ohio river for the Americans, he sought and obtained permission from the governor of Virginia the right to raise a body of troops for this purpose. Early in the spring of 1778 Clark began collecting his men for the proposed expedition. Within a short time he collected about one hundred and fifty men at Fort Pitt and floated down the Ohio to the falls near Jeffersonville. He picked up a few recruits at this place and in June floated on down the river to the mouth of the Tennessee river. His original intention was to make a descent on Vincennes first, but, having received erroneous reports as to the strength of the garrison located there, he decided to commence active operations at Kaskaskia. After landing his troops near the mouth of the Tennessee in the latter part of June, 1778, he marched them across southern Illinois to Kaskaskia, arriving there on the evening of July 4. The inhabitants were terror stricken at first, but upon being assured by General Clark that they were in no danger and that all he wanted was for them to give their support to the American cause, their fears were soon quieted. Being so far from the scene of the war, the French along the Mississippi knew little or nothing about its progress. One of the most important factors in establishing a friendly relation between the Americans and the French inhabitants was the hearty willingness of Father Gibault,

the Catholic priest stationed at Kaskaskia, in making his people see that their best interests would be served by aligning themselves with the Americans. Father Gibault not only was of invaluable assistance to General Clark at Kaskaskia, but he also offered to make the overland trip to Vincennes and win over the French in that place to the American side. This he successfully did and returned to Kaskaskia in August with the welcome news that the inhabitants of Vincennes were willing to give their allegiance to the Americans.

However, before Clark got his troops together for the trip to Vincennes, General Hamilton, the lieutenant-governor of Detroit, descended the Wabash and captured Vincennes (December 15, 1778). At that time Clark had only two men stationed there, Leonard Helm, who was in command of the fort, and a private by the name of Henry. As soon as Clark heard that the British had captured Vincennes, he began to make plans for retaking it. The terms of enlistment of many of his men had expired and he had difficulty in getting enough of them to re-enlist to make a body large enough to make a successful attack. A number of young Frenchmen joined his command and finally, in January, 1779, Clark set out from Kaskaskia for Vincennes with one hundred and seventy men. This trip of one hundred sixty miles was made at a time when traveling overland was at its worst. The prairies were wet, the streams were swollen and the rivers overflowing their banks. Notwithstanding the difficulties which confronted him and his men, Clark advanced rapidly as possible and by February 23, 1779, he was in front of Vincennes. Two days later, after considerable parleying and after the fort had suffered from a murderous fire from the Americans, General Hamilton agreed to surrender. This marked the end of British dominion in Indiana and ever since that day the territory now comprehended in the state has been American soil.

#### VINCENNES, THE OLDEST SETTLEMENT OF INDIANA.

Historians have never agreed as to the date of the founding of Vincennes. The local historians of that city have always claimed that the settlement of the town dates from 1702, although those who have examined all the facts and documents have come to the conclusion that 1732 comes nearer to being the correct date. It was in the latter year that George Washington was born, a fact which impresses upon the reader something of the age of the city. Vincennes was an old town and had seen several generations pass away when the Declaration of Independence was signed. It was in Vincennes and vicinity that the best blood of the Northwest Territory was

found at the time of the Revolutionary War. It was made the seat of justice of Knox county when it was organized in 1790 and consequently it is by many years the oldest county seat in the state. It became the first capital of Indiana Territory in 1800 and saw it removed to Corydon in 1813 for the reason, so the Legislature said, that it was too near the outskirts of civilization. In this oldest city of the Mississippi valley still stands the house into which Governor Harrison moved in 1804, and the house in which the Territorial Legislature held its sessions in 1805 is still in an excellent state of preservation.

Today Vincennes is a thriving city of fifteen thousand, with paved streets, street cars, fine public buildings and public utility plants equal to any in the state. It is the seat of a university which dates back more than a century.

#### FIRST SURVEYS AND EARLY SETTLERS.

The next period in the history of the territory north of the Ohio begins with the passage of a congressional act (May 20, 1785), which provided for the present system of land surveys into townships six miles square. As soon as this was put into operation, settlers—and mostly Revolutionary soldiers—began to pour into the newly surveyed territory. A second Ohio Company was organized in the spring of 1786, made up chiefly of Revolutionary officers and soldiers from New England, and this company proposed to establish a state somewhere between Lake Erie and the Ohio river. At this juncture Congress realized that definite steps should be made at once for some kind of government over this extensive territory, a territory which now includes the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and about a third of Minnesota. Various plans were proposed in Congress and most of the sessions of 1786 and the first half of 1787 were consumed in trying to formulate a suitable form of government for the extensive territory. The result of all these deliberations resulted in the famous Ordinance of 1787, which was finally passed on July 13, 1787.

#### ORDINANCE OF 1787.

There have been many volumes written about this instrument of government and to this day there is a difference of opinion as to who was its author. The present article can do no more than merely sketch its outline and set forth the main provisions. It was intended to provide only a temporary government and to serve until such a time as the population of the



territory would warrant the creation of states with the same rights and privileges which the thirteen original states enjoyed. It stipulated that not less than three nor more than five states should ever be created out of the whole territory and the maximum number was finally organized, although it was not until 1848 that the last state, Wisconsin, was admitted to the Union. The third article, "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged," has given these five states the basis for their excellent system of public schools, state normals, colleges and universities. Probably the most widely discussed article was the sixth, which provided that slavery and involuntary servitude should never be permitted within the territory and by the use of the word "forever" made the territory free for all time. It is interesting to note in this connection that both Indiana and Illinois before their admission to the Union sought to have this provision set aside, but every petition from the two states was refused by Congress in accordance with the provision of the Ordinance.

#### FIRST STAGE OF GOVERNMENT UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

The ordinance contemplated two grades of territorial government. During the operation of the first grade of government the governor, his secretary and the three judges provided by the ordinance were to be appointed by Congress and the governor in turn was to appoint "such magistrates and other civil officers in each county and township as he shall deem necessary for the preservation of the peace and good will of the same." After the federal government was organized a statutory provision took the appointment of these officers out of the hands of Congress and placed it in the hands of the President of the United States. All executive authority was given to the governor, all judicial authority to the three judges, while the governor and judges, in joint session, constituted the legislative body. This means that during the first stage of territorial government the people had absolutely no voice in the affairs of government and this state of affairs lasted until 1799, a period of twelve years.

#### SECOND STAGE OF GOVERNMENT UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

The second stage of government in the territory was to begin whenever the governor was satisfied that there were at least five thousand free male inhabitants of the age of twenty-one and above. The main difference be-

tween the first and second stages of territorial government lay in the fact that the legislative functions were taken from the governor and judges and given to a "general assembly or legislature." The ordinance provided for the election of one representative for each five hundred free male inhabitants, the tenure of the office to be two years. While the members of the lower house were to be elected by the qualified voters of the territory, the upper house, to consist of five members, were to be appointed by Congress in a somewhat complicated manner. The house of representatives was to select ten men and these ten names were to be sent to Congress and out of this number five were to be selected by Congress. This provision, like the appointment of the governor, was later changed so as to make the upper house the appointees of the President of the United States. The five men so selected were called councilors and held office for five years.

#### INDIAN STRUGGLES (1787-1803).

The period from 1787 to 1803 in the Northwest Territory was marked by several bitter conflicts with the Indians. Just as at the close of the French and Indian War had the French stirred up the Indians against the Americans, so at the close of the Revolutionary War did the English do the same. In fact the War of 1812 was undoubtedly hastened by the depredations of the Indians, who were urged to make forays upon the frontier settlements in the Northwest Territory by the British. The various uprisings of the Indians during this critical period greatly retarded the influx of settlers in the new territory, and were a constant menace to those hardy pioneers who did venture to establish homes north of the Ohio river. Three distinct campaigns were waged against the savages before they were finally subdued. The first campaign was under the command of Gen. Josiah Harmar (1790) and resulted in a decisive defeat for the whites. The second expedition was under the leadership of Gen. Arthur St. Clair (1791), the governor of the Territory, and was marked by one of the worst defeats ever suffered by an American army at the hands of the Indians. A lack of knowledge of Indian methods of warfare, combined with reckless mismanagement, sufficiently accounts for both disasters. It remained for Gen. Anthony Wayne, the "Mad Anthony" of Revolutionary fame, to bring the Indians to terms. The battle of Fallen Timbers, which closed his campaign against the Indians, was fought August 20, 1794, on the Maumee river within the present county of Defiance county, Ohio. This crushing defeat of the Indians, a rout in which they lost twelve out of thirteen chiefs, was so complete that the Indians were glad to sue for

peace. On June 10, 1795, delegates from the various Indian tribes, headed by their respective chiefs, met at Greenville, Ohio, to formulate a treaty. A treaty was finally consummated on August 3, and was signed by General Wayne on behalf of the United States and by ninety chiefs and delegates of twelve interested tribes. This treaty was faithfully kept by the Indians and ever afterwards Little Turtle, the real leader of the Indians at that time, was a true friend of the whites. While there were several sporadic forays on the part of the Indians up to 1811, there was no battle of any importance with them until the battle of Tippecanoe in the fall of 1811.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

The first governor of the newly organized territory was Gen. Arthur St. Clair, a gallant soldier of the Revolution, who was appointed on October 5, 1787, and ordered to report for duty on the first of the following February. He held the office until November 22, 1802, when he was dismissed by President Jefferson "for the disorganizing spirit, and tendency of every example, violating the rules of conduct enjoined by his public station, as displayed in his address to the convention." The governor's duties were performed by his secretary, Charles W. Byrd, until March 1, 1803, when the state officials took their office. The first judges appointed were Samuel Holden Parsons, James Mitchell Varnum and John Armstrong. Before the time came for the judges to qualify, Armstrong resigned and John Cleves Symmes was appointed in his place. The first secretary was Winthrop Sargent, who held the position until he was appointed governor of Mississippi Territory by the President on May 2, 1798. Sargent was succeeded by William Henry Harrison, who was appointed by the President on June 26, 1798, and confined by the Senate two days later. Harrison was later elected as the first delegate of the organized Northwest Territory to Congress and the President then appointed Charles Willing Byrd as secretary of the Territory, Byrd's appointment being confirmed by the Senate on December 31, 1799.

#### REPRESENTATIVE STAGE OF GOVERNMENT (1799-1803).

The Northwest Territory remained under the government of the first stage until September 16, 1799, when it formally advanced to the second or representative stage. In the summer of 1798 Governor St. Clair had ascertained that the territory had a population of at least five thousand free male inhabitants and, in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance of 1787,

was ready to make the change in its form of government. On October 29, 1798, the governor issued a proclamation to the qualified voters of the territory directing them to choose members for the lower house of the territorial Legislature at an election to be held on the third Monday of the following December. The twenty-two members so elected met on January 16, 1799, and, pursuant to the provisions of the ordinance, selected the ten men from whom the President of the United States later chose five for the Legislative Council. They then adjourned to meet on September 16, 1799, but since there was not a quorum on that day they held adjourned sessions until the 23rd, at which time a quorum was present.

At the time the change in the form of government went into effect there were only nine counties in the whole territory. These counties had been organized either by the governor or his secretary. The following table gives the nine counties organized before 1799 with the dates of their organization and the number of legislators proportioned to each by the governor:

County.	Date of Organization.	Number of representatives.
Washington -----	July 27, 1788 -----	2
Hamilton -----	January 4, 1790 -----	7
St. Clair -----	April 27, 1790 -----	1
Knox -----	June 20, 1790 -----	1
Randolph -----	October 5, 1795 -----	1
Wayne -----	August 6, 1796 -----	3
Adams -----	July 10, 1797 -----	2
Jefferson -----	July 29, 1797 -----	1
Ross -----	August 20, 1798 -----	4

FIRST TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

The twenty-two representatives and five councilors were the first representative body to meet in the Northwest Territory and they represented a constituency scattered over a territory of more than two hundred and sixty-five thousand square miles, an area greater than Germany or France, or even Austria-Hungary. It would be interesting to tell something of the deliberations of these twenty-seven sterling pioneers, but the limit of the present article forbids. It is necessary, however, to make mention of one important thing which they did in view of the fact that it throws much light on the subsequent history of the Northwest Territory.



## DIVISION OF 1800.

The Legislature was authorized to elect a delegate to Congress and two candidates for the honor presented their names to the Legislature, William Henry Harrison and Arthur St. Clair, Jr., the son of the governor. The Legislature, by a joint ballot on October 3, 1799, elected Harrison by a vote of eleven to ten. The defeat of his son undoubtedly had considerable to do with the subsequent estrangement which arose between the governor and his legislature and incidentally hastened the division of the Northwest Territory. Within two years from the time the territory had advanced to the second stage of government the division had taken place. On May 7, 1800, Congress passed an act dividing the Northwest Territory by a line drawn from the mouth of the Kentucky river to Fort Recovery, in Mercer county, Ohio, and thence due north to the boundary line between the United States and Canada. Governor St. Clair favored the division because he thought it would delay the organization of a state and thus give him a longer lease on his position, but he did not favor the division as finally determined. He was constantly growing in disfavor with the people on account of his overbearing manner and he felt that he would get rid of some of his bitterest enemies if the western inhabitants were set off into a new territory. However, the most of the credit for the division must be given to Harrison, who, as a delegate to Congress, was in a position to have the most influence. Harrison also was satisfied that in case a new territory should be formed he would be appointed its first governor and he was not disappointed. The territory west of the line above mentioned was immediately organized and designated as Indiana Territory, while the eastern portion retained the existing government and the old name—Northwest Territory. It is frequently overlooked that the Northwest Territory existed in fact and in name up until March 1, 1803.

## CENSUS OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY IN 1800.

The division of 1800 left the Northwest Territory with only about one-third of its original area. The census of the territory taken by the United States government in 1800 showed it to have a total population of forty-five thousand three hundred and sixty-five, which fell short by about fifteen thousand of being sufficient for the creation of a state as provided by the Ordinance of 1787, which fixed the minimum population at sixty-thousand. The counties left in the Northwest Territory, with their respective population,

are set forth in the appended table, all of which were within the present state of Ohio, except Wayne :

Adams -----	3,432
Hamilton -----	14,632
Jefferson -----	8,766
Ross -----	8,540
Trumbull -----	1,302
Washington -----	5,427
Wayne -----	3,206
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Total -----	45,365

The population as classified by the census with respect to age and sex is interesting and particularly so in showing that considerably more than one-third of the total population were children under ten years of age.

	Males.	Females.
Whites up to ten years of age-----	9,362	8,644
Whites from ten to sixteen-----	3,647	3,353
Whites from sixteen to twenty-six----	4,636	3,861
Whites from twenty-six to forty-five--	4,833	3,342
Whites forty-five and upward-----	1,955	1,395
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Total -----	24,433	20,595
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Total of both sexes -----		45,028
Total of other persons, not Indians ---		337
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Grand total -----		45,365

The above table shows in detail the character and distribution of the population of the Northwest Territory after the division of 1800. It is at this point that the history of Indiana properly begins and it is pertinent to set forth with as much detail as possible the population of Indiana Territory at that time. The population of 5,641 was grouped about a dozen or more settlements scattered at wide intervals throughout the territory. The following table gives the settlements in Indiana Territory in 1800 with their respective number of inhabitants:

Mackinaw, in northern Michigan -----	251
Green Bay, Wisconsin -----	50
Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin -----	65
Cahokia, Monroe county, Illinois -----	719
Belle Fontaine, Monroe county, Illinois -----	286
L'Aigle, St. Clair county, Illinois -----	250
Kaskaskia, Randolph county, Illinois -----	467
Prairie du Rocher, Randolph county, Illinois -----	212
Settlement in Mitchel township, Randolph county, Ill.-----	334
Fort Massac, southern Illinois -----	90
Clark's Grant, Clark county, Indiana -----	929
Vincennes, Knox county, Indiana -----	714
Vicinity of Vincennes (traders and trappers) -----	819
Traders and trappers at Ouitenon and Fort Wayne ----	155
Fur traders, scattered along the lakes -----	300

Of this total population of nearly six thousand, it was about equally divided between what is now Indiana and Illinois. There were one hundred and sixty-three free negroes reported, while there were one hundred and thirty-five slaves of color. Undoubtedly, this census of 1800 failed to give all of the slave population, and it is interesting to note that there were efforts to enslave the Indian as well as the negro.

All of these settlements with the exception of the one in Clark's Grant were largely French. The settlement at Jeffersonville was made in large part by soldiers of the Revolutionary War and was the only real American settlement in the Indiana Territory when it was organized in 1800.

#### FIRST STAGE OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

The government of Indiana Territory was formally organized July 4, 1800, and in a large book kept in the secretary of state's office at Indianapolis, there appears in the large legible hand of John Gibson the account of the first meeting of the officials of the Territory. It reads as follows:

"St. Vincennes, July 4, 1800. This day the government of the Indiana Territory commenced, William Henry Harrison having been appointed governor, John Gibson, secretary, William Clarke, Henry Vanderburgh & John Griffin Judges in and over said Territory."

Until Governor Harrison appeared at Vincennes, his secretary, John Gibson, acted as governor. The first territorial court met March 3, 1801,

the first meeting of the governor and judges having begun on the 12th of the preceding January. The governor and judges, in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance of 1787, continued to perform all legislative and judicial functions of the territory until it was advanced to the representative stage of government in 1805. The governor had sole executive power and appointed all officials, territorial and county.

#### CHANGES IN BOUNDARY LIMITS OF INDIANA.

During this period from 1800 to 1805, the territory of Indiana was considerably augmented as result of the organization of the state of Ohio in 1803. At that date Ohio was given its present territorial limits, and all of the rest of the Northwest Territory was included within Indiana Territory from this date until 1805. During this interim Louisiana was divided and the northern part was attached to Indiana Territory for purposes of civil and criminal jurisdiction. This was, however, only a temporary arrangement, which lasted only about a year after the purchase of Louisiana from France. The next change in the limits of Indiana Territory occurred in 1805, in which year the territory of Michigan was set off. The southern line of Michigan was made tangent to the southern extreme of Lake Michigan, and it so remained until Indiana was admitted to the Union in 1816. From 1805 to 1809 Indiana included all of the present states of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and about one-third of Minnesota. In the latter year Illinois was set off as a territory and Indiana was left with its present limits with the exception of a ten-mile strip along the northern boundary. This strip was detached from Michigan and this subsequently led to friction between the two states, which was not settled until the United States government gave Michigan a large tract of land west of Lake Michigan. Thus it is seen how Indiana has received its present boundary limits as the result of the successive changes in 1803, 1805, 1809 and 1816.

#### SECOND STAGE OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT (1805-1816.)

The Ordinance of 1787 provided that whenever the population of the territory reached five thousand free male inhabitants it should pass upon the question of advancing to the second or representative stage. Governor Harrison issued a proclamation August 4, 1804, directing an election to be held in the various counties of Indiana territory on the 11th of the following month. In the entire territory, then comprehending six counties, there were



only three hundred and ninety-one votes cast. The following table gives the result of this election:

County.	For Advance.	Against Advance.	Total.
Clark -----	35	13	48
Dearborn -----	0	26	26
Knox -----	163	12	175
Randolph -----	40	21	61
St. Clair -----	22	59	81
Wayne -----	0	0	0
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Total -----	260	131	391

It will be noticed that there is no vote returned from Wayne and this is accounted for by the fact that the proclamation notifying the sheriff was not received in time to give it the proper advertisement. Wayne county at that time included practically all of the present state of Michigan and is not to be confused with the Wayne county later formed within the present limits of Indiana. As result of this election and its majority of one hundred and twenty-nine in favor of advancing to the second stage of government, the governor issued a proclamation calling for an election on January 3, 1805, of nine representatives, the same being proportioned to the counties as follows: Wayne, three; Knox, two; Dearborn, Clark, Randolph and St. Clair, one each. The members of the first territorial legislature of Indiana convened at Vincennes on July 29, 1805. The members of the house were as follows: Dr. George Fisher, of Randolph; William Biggs and Shadrach Bond, of St. Clair; Benjamin Parke and John Johnson, of Knox; Davis Floyd, of Clark, and Jesse B. Thomas, of Dearborn. This gives, however, only seven representatives, Wayne county having been set off as the territory of Michigan in the spring of this same year. A re-apportionment was made by the governor in order to bring the quota of representatives up to the required number.

The Legislative Council consisted of five men as provided by the Ordinance of 1787, namely: Benjamin Chambers, of Dearborn; Samuel Gwathmey, of Clark; John Rice Jones, of Knox; Pierre Menard, of Randolph, and John Hay, of St. Clair. It is not possible in this connection to give a detailed history of the territory of Indiana from 1805 until its admission to the Union in 1816. Readers who wish to make a study of our state's history can find volumes which will treat the history of the state in a much better manner

than is possible in a volume of this character. It may be noted that there were five general assemblies of the Territorial Legislature during this period of eleven years. Each one of the five general assemblies was divided into two sessions, which, with the dates, are given in the appended table:

First General Assembly—First session, July 29, 1805; second session, November 3, 1806.

Second General Assembly—First session, August 12, 1807; second session, September 26, 1808.

Third General Assembly—First session, November 12, 1810; second session, November 12, 1811.

Fourth General Assembly—First session, February 1, 1813; second session, December 6, 1813.

Fifth General Assembly—First session, August 15, 1814; second session, December 4, 1815.

#### CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES OF INDIANA TERRITORY.

Indiana Territory was allowed a delegate in Congress from 1805 until the close of the territorial period. The first three delegates were elected by the Territorial Legislature, while the last four were elected by the qualified voters of the territory. The first delegate was Benjamin Parke, who was elected to succeed himself in 1807 over John Rice Jones, Waller Taylor and Shadrach Bond. Parke resigned March 1, 1808, to accept a seat on the supreme judiciary of Indiana Territory, and remained on the supreme bench of Indiana after it was admitted to the Union, holding the position until his death at Salem, Indiana, July 12, 1835. Jesse B. Thomas was elected October 22, 1808, to succeed Parke as delegate to Congress. It is this same Thomas who came to Brookville in 1808 with Amos Butler. He was a tricky, shifty, and, so his enemies said, an unscrupulous politician. He was later elected to Congress in Illinois and became the author of the Missouri Compromise. In the spring of 1809 the inhabitants of the territory were permitted to cast their first vote for the delegate to Congress. Three candidates presented themselves for the consideration of the voters, Jonathan Jennings, Thomas Randolph and John Johnson. There were only four counties in the state at this time, Knox, Harrison, Clark and Dearborn. Two counties, St. Clair and Randolph, were a part of the new territory of Illinois, which was cut off from Indiana in the spring of 1809. The one newspaper of the territory waged a losing fight against Jennings, the latter appealing for

support on the ground of his anti-slavery views. The result of the election was as follows: Jennings, 428; Randolph, 402; Johnson, 81. Jonathan Jennings may be said to be the first successful politician produced in Indiana. His congressional career began in 1809 and he was elected to Congress four successive terms before 1816. He was president of the constitution convention of 1816, first governor of the state and was elected a second time, but resigned to go to Congress, where he was sent for *four more terms* by the voters of his district.

#### EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH SLAVERY IN INDIANA.

The Ordinance of 1787 specifically provided that neither slavery nor any voluntary servitude should ever exist in the Northwest Territory. Notwithstanding this prohibition, slavery actually did exist, not only in the Northwest Territory, but in the sixteen years while Indiana was a territory as well. The constitution of Indiana in 1816 expressly forbade slavery and yet the census of 1820 reported one hundred and ninety slaves in Indiana, which was only forty-seven less than there was in 1810. Most of these slaves were held in the southwestern counties of the state, there being one hundred and eighteen in Knox, thirty in Gibson, eleven in Posey, ten in Vanderburg and the remainder widely scattered throughout the state. As late as 1817 Franklin county scheduled slaves for taxation, listing them at three dollars each. The tax schedule for 1813 says that the property tax on "horses, town lots, servants of color and free males of color shall be the same as in 1814." Franklin county did not return slaves at the census of 1810 or 1820, but the above extract from the commissioners' record of Franklin county proved conclusively that slaves were held there. Congress was petitioned on more than one occasion during the territorial period to set aside the prohibition against slavery, but on each occasion refused to assent to the appeal of the slavery advocates. While the constitution convention of 1816 was in session, there was an attempt made to introduce slavery, but it failed to accomplish anything.

#### THE INDIAN LANDS.

The United States government bought from the Indians all of the land within the present state of Indiana with the exception of a small tract around Vincennes, which was given by the Indians to the inhabitants of the town about the middle of the eighteenth century. The first purchase of land was made in 1795, at which time a triangular strip in the southeastern part of the

state was secured by the treaty of Greenville. By the time Indiana was admitted to the Union in 1816, the following tracts had been purchased: Vincennes tract, June 7, 1803; Vincennes treaty tract, August 18 and 27, 1804; Grouseland tract, August 21, 1805; Harrison's purchase, September 30, 1809; Twelve-mile purchase, September 30, 1809.

No more purchases were made from the Indians until the fall of 1818, at which time a large tract of land in the central part of the state was purchased from the Indians. This tract included all of the land north of the Indian boundary lines of 1805 and 1809, and south of the Wabash river with the exception of what was known as the Miami reservation. This treaty, known as St. Mary's, was finally signed on October 6, 1818, and the next Legislature proceeded to divide it into two counties, Wabash and Delaware.

#### ORGANIZATION OF COUNTIES.

As fast as the population would warrant, new counties were established in this New Purchase and Hamilton county was the tenth to be so organized. This county was created by the legislative act of January 8, 1823, and began its formal career as an independent county on the 7th of the following April. For purposes of reference, a list of the counties organized up until 1823, when Hamilton county was established, is here appended. The dates given represent the time when the organization of the county became effective, since in many instances it was from a few months to as much as seven years after the act establishing the county was passed before it became effective.

1. Knox -----	June 20, 1790	15. Orange -----	Feb. 1, 1816
2. Clark -----	Feb. 3, 1801	16. Sullivan -----	Jan. 15, 1817
3. Dearborn -----	Mch. 7, 1803	17. Jennings -----	Feb. 1, 1817
4. Harrison -----	Dec. 1, 1808	18. Pike -----	Feb. 1, 1817
5. Jefferson -----	Feb. 1, 1811	19. Daviess -----	Feb. 15, 1817
6. Franklin -----	Feb. 1, 1811	20. Dubois -----	Feb. 1, 1818
7. Wayne -----	Feb. 1, 1811	21. Spencer -----	Feb. 1, 1818
8. Warrick -----	Apr. 1, 1813	22. Vanderburgh ---	Feb. 1, 1818
9. Gibson -----	Apr. 1, 1813	23. Vigo -----	Feb. 15, 1818
10. Washington ---	Jan. 17, 1814	24. Crawford ----	Mch. 1, 1818
11. Switzerland ---	Oct. 1, 1814	25. Lawrence ----	Mch. 1, 1818
12. Posey -----	Nov. 1, 1814	26. Monroe -----	Apr. 10, 1818
13. Perry -----	Nov. 1, 1814	27. Ripley -----	Apr. 10, 1818
14. Jackson -----	Jan. 1, 1816	28. Randolph -----	Aug. 10, 1818



29. Owen -----	Jan. 1, 1819	38. Morgan -----	Feb. 15, 1822
30. Fayette -----	Jan. 1, 1819	39. Decatur -----	Mch. 4, 1822
31. Floyd -----	Feb. 2, 1819	40. Shelby -----	Apr. 1, 1822
32. Scott -----	Feb. 1, 1820	41. Rush -----	Apr. 1, 1822
33. Martin -----	Feb. 1, 1820	42. Marion -----	Apr. 1, 1822
34. Union -----	Feb. 1, 1821	43. Putnam -----	Apr. 1, 1822
35. Greene -----	Feb. 5, 1821	44. Henry -----	June 1, 1822
36. Bartholomew ---	Feb. 12, 1821	45. Montgomery ---	Mch. 1, 1823
37. Parke -----	Apr. 2, 1821	46. Hamilton -----	Apr. 7, 1823

The first thirteen counties in the above list were all that were organized when the territory of Indiana petitioned Congress for an enabling act in 1815. They were in the southern part of the state and had a total population of sixty-three thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven. At that time the total state tax was only about five thousand dollars, while the assessment of the whole state in 1816 amounted to only six thousand forty-three dollars and thirty-six cents.

#### CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIANA.

The Constitution of 1816 was framed by forty-three delegates who met at Corydon from June 10 to June 29 of that year. It was provided in the Constitution of 1816 that a vote might be taken every twelve years on the question of amending, revising or writing a wholly new instrument of government. Although several efforts were made to hold constitution conventions between 1816 and 1850, the vote failed each time until 1848. Elections were held in 1823, 1828, 1840 and 1846, but each time there was returned an adverse vote against the calling of a constitutional convention. There were no amendments to the 1816 Constitution, although the revision of 1824, by Benjamin Parke and others was so thorough that it was said that the revision committee had done as much as a constitution convention could have done.

It was not until 1848 that a successful vote on the question of calling a constitution convention was carried. There were many reasons which induced the people of the state to favor a convention. Among these may be mentioned the following: The old Constitution provided that all the state officers except the governor and lieutenant-governor should be elected by the legislature. Many of the county and township officers were appointed by the county commissioners. Again, the old Constitution attempted to handle too many matters of local concern. All divorces from 1816 to 1851 were

granted by the Legislature. Special laws were passed which would apply to particular counties and even to particular townships in the county. If Noblesville wanted an alley vacated or a street closed, it had to appeal to the Legislature for permission to do so. If a man wanted to ferry people across a stream in Posey county, his representative presented a bill to the Legislature asking that the proposed ferryman be given permission to ferry people across the stream. The agitation for free schools attracted the support of the educated people of the state, and most of the newspapers were outspoken in their advocacy of better educational privileges. The desire for better schools, for freer representation in the selection of officials, for less interference by the Legislature in local affairs, led to a desire on the part of majority of the people of the state for a new Constitution.

The second constitutional convention of Indiana met at Indianapolis, October 7, 1850, and continued in session for four months. The one hundred and fifty delegates labored faithfully to give the state a Constitution fully abreast of the times and in accordance with the best ideas of the day. More power was given the people by allowing them to select not only all of the state officials, but also their county officers as well. The convention of 1850 took a decided stand against the negro and proposed a referendum on the question of prohibiting the further emigration of negroes into the state of Indiana. The subsequent vote on this question showed that the people were not disposed to tolerate the colored race. As a matter of fact no negro or mulatto could legally come into Indiana from 1852 until 1881, when the restriction was removed by an amendment of the Constitution. Another important feature of the new Constitution was the provision for free schools. What we now know as a public school supported at the expense of the state, was unknown under the 1816 Constitution. The new Constitution established a system of free public schools, and subsequent statutory legislation strengthened the constitutional provision so that the state now ranks among the leaders in educational matters throughout the nation. The people of the state had voted on the question of free schools in 1848 and had decided that they should be established, but there was such a strong majority opposed to free schools that nothing was done. Orange county gave only an eight per cent vote in favor of free schools, while Putnam and Monroe, containing DePauw and Indiana Universities, respectively, voted adversely by large majorities. But, with the backing of the Constitution, the advocates of free schools began to push the fight for their establishment, and as a result of the legislative acts of 1855, 1857 and 1867, the public schools were placed upon a sound basis.

Such in brief were the most important features of the 1852 Constitution. It has remained substantially to this day as it was written sixty-five years ago. It is true there have been some amendments, but the changes of 1878 and 1881 did not alter the Constitution in any important particular. There was no concerted effort toward calling a constitutional convention until the Legislature of 1913 provided for a referendum on the question at the polls, November 4, 1914. Despite the fact that all the political parties had declared in favor of a constitutional convention in their platforms, the question was voted down by a large majority. An effort was made to have the question submitted by the Legislature of 1915, but the Legislature refused to submit the question to the voters of the state.

#### CAPITALS OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY AND INDIANA.

The present state of Indiana was comprehended within the Northwest Territory from 1787 to 1800, and during that time the capital was located within the present state of Ohio. When the Ordinance of 1787 was put in operation on July 17, 1788, the capital was established at Marietta, the name being chosen by the directors of the Ohio Company on July 2, of the same year. The name Marietta was selected in honor of the French Queen, Marie Antoinette, compounded by curious combination of the first and last syllables of her name.

When Indiana was set off by the act of May 7, 1800, the same act located the capital at Vincennes where it remained for nearly thirteen years. The old building in which the Territorial Assembly first met in 1805 is still standing in Vincennes. In the spring of 1813 the capital of the territory was removed to Corydon and it was in that quaint little village that Indiana began its career as a state. It remained there until November, 1824, when Samuel Merrill loaded up all of the state's effects in three large wagons and hauled them overland to the new capital—Indianapolis. Indianapolis had been chosen as the seat of government by a committee of ten men, appointed in 1820 by the Legislature. It was not until 1824, however, that a building was erected in the new capital which would accommodate the state officials and the General Assembly. The first court house in Marion county was built on the site of the present building, and was erected with a view of utilizing it as a state house until a suitable capitol building could be erected. The state continued to use the Marion county court house until 1835, by which time an imposing state house had been erected. This building was in use until 1877, when it was razed to make way for the present beautiful building.

## MILITARY HISTORY.

Indiana has had some of its citizens in four wars in which United States has engaged since 1800: The War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War. One of the most important engagements ever fought against the Indians in the United States was that of the battle of Tippecanoe, November 7, 1811. For the two or three years preceding, Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet, had been getting the Indians ready for an insurrection. Tecumseh made a long trip throughout the western and southern part of the United States for the purpose of getting the Indians all over the country to rise up and drive out the white man. While he was still in the South, Governor Harrison descended upon the Indians at Tippecanoe and dealt them a blow from which they never recovered. The British had been urging the Indians to rise up against the settlers along the frontier, and the repeated depredations of the savages but increased the hostility of the United States toward England. General Harrison had about seven hundred fighting men, while the Indians numbered over a thousand. The Americans lost thirty-seven by death on the battlefield, twenty-five mortally wounded and one hundred and twenty-six more or less seriously wounded. The savages carried most of their dead away, but it is known that about forty were actually killed in the battle and a proportionately large number wounded. In addition to the men who fought at Tippecanoe, the pioneers of the territory sent their quota to the front during the War of 1812. Unfortunately, records are not available to show the enlistments by counties.

During the administration of Governor Whitcomb (1846-49) the United States was engaged in a war with Mexico. Indiana contributed five regiments to the government during this struggle, and her troops performed with a spirit of singular promptness and patriotism during all the time they were at the front.

No Northern state had a more patriotic governor during the Civil War than Indiana, and had every governor in the North done his duty as conscientiously as did Governor Morton that terrible struggle would undoubtedly have been materially shortened. When President Lincoln issued his call on April 15, 1861, for 75,000 volunteers, Indiana was asked to furnish 4,683 men as its quota. A week later there were no less than 12,000 volunteers at Camp Morton at Indianapolis. This loyal uprising was a tribute to the patriotism of the people, and accounts for the fact that Indiana sent more than 200,000 men to the front during the war. Indiana furnished practically seventy-five per cent of its total population capable of bearing arms,



and on this basis Delaware was the only state in the Union which exceeded Indiana. Of the troops sent from Indiana, 7,243 were killed or mortally wounded, and 19,429 died from other causes, making a total death loss of over thirteen per cent for all the troops furnished.

During the summer of 1863 Indiana was thrown into a frenzy of excitement when it was learned that General Morgan had crossed the Ohio with 2,000 cavalymen under his command. Probably Indiana never experienced a more exciting month than July of that year. Morgan entered the state in Harrison county and advanced northward through Corydon to Salem in Washington county. As his men went along they robbed orchards, looted farm houses, stole all the horses which they could find and burned considerable property. From Salem, Morgan turned with his men to the east, having been deterred from his threatened advance on Indianapolis by the knowledge that the local militia of the state would soon be too strong for him. He hurried with his men toward the Ohio line, stopping at Versailles long enough to loot the county treasury. Morgan passed through Dearborn county over into Ohio, near Harrison, and a few days later, Morgan and most of his band were captured.

During the latter part of the war there was considerable opposition to its prosecution on the part of the Democrats of this state. An organization known as the Knights of the Golden Circle at first, and later as the Sons of Liberty, was instrumental in stirring up much trouble throughout the state. Probably historians will never be able to agree as to the degree of their culpability in thwarting the government authorities in the conduct of the war. That they did many overt acts cannot be questioned and that they collected fire arms for traitorous designs cannot be denied. Governor Morton and General Carrington, by a system of close espionage, were able to know at all times just what was transpiring in the councils of these orders. In the campaign of 1864 there was an open denunciation through the Republican press of the Sons of Liberty. On October 8 of that year the Republican newspapers carried these startling headlines: "You can rebuke this treason. The traitors intend to bring war to your home. Meet them at the ballot box while Grant and Sherman meet them on the battle field." A number of the leaders were arrested, convicted in a military court and sentenced to be shot. However, they were later pardoned.

The Spanish-American War of 1898 has been the last one in which troops from Indiana have borne a part. When President McKinley issued his call for 75,000 volunteers on April 25, 1898, Indiana was called upon to furnish three regiments. War was officially declared April 25, and formally

came to an end by the signing of a protocol on August 12 of the same year. The main engagements of importance were the sea battles of Manila and Santiago and the land engagements of El Caney and San Juan Hill. According to the treaty of Paris, signed December 12, 1898, Spain relinquished her sovereignty over Cuba, ceded to the United States Porto Rico and her other West India Island possessions, as well as the island of Guam in the Pacific. Spain also transferred her rights in the Philippines for the sum of twenty million dollars paid to her for public work and improvements constructed by the Spanish government.

#### POLITICAL HISTORY.

It is not possible to trace in detail the political history of Indiana for the past century and in this connection an attempt is made only to survey briefly the political history of the state. For more than half a century Indiana has been known as a pivotal state in politics. In 1816 there was only one political party and Jennings, Noble, Taylor, Hendricks and all of the politicians of that day were grouped into this one—the Democratic party. Whatever differences in views they might have had were due to local issues and not to any questions of national portent. Questions concerning the improvements of rivers, the building of canals, the removal of court houses and similar questions of state importance only divided the politicians in the early history of Indiana into groups. There was one group known as the White Water faction, another called the Vincennes crowd, and still another designated as the White river delegation. From 1816 until as late as 1832, Indiana was the scene of personal politics, and during the years Adams, Clay and Jackson were candidates for the presidency on the same ticket, men were known politically as Adams men, Clay men or Jackson men. The election returns in the twenties and thirties disclose no tickets labeled Democrat, Whig or Republican, but the words "Adams," "Clay," or "Jackson."

The question of internal improvements which arose in the Legislature of 1836 was a large contributing factor in the division of the politicians of the state. The Whig party may be dated from 1832, although it was not until four years later that it came into national prominence. The Democrats elected the state officials, including the governor, down to 1831, but in that year the opposition party, later called the Whigs, elected Noah Noble governor. For the next twelve years the Whigs, with their cry of internal improvements, controlled the state. The Whigs went out of power with Samuel Bigger in 1843, and when they came into power again they appeared

under the name of Republicans in 1861. Since the Civil War the two parties have practically divided the leadership between them, there having been seven Republicans and six Democrats elected governor of the state. The following table gives a list of the governors of the Northwest Territory, Indiana Territory and the state of Indiana. The Federalists were in control up to 1800 and Harrison and his followers may be classed as Democratic-Republicans. The politics of the governors of the state are indicated in the table.

## GOVERNORS OF INDIANA.

## Of the Territory Northwest of the Ohio—

Arthur St. Clair -----1787-1800

## Of the Territory of Indiana—

John Gibson (acting) -----July 4, 1800-1801

William H. Harrison -----1801-1812

Thomas Posey -----1812-1816

## Of the State of Indiana—

Jonathan Jennings, Dem. -----1816-1822

Ratliff Boon, Dem. -----September 12 to December 5, 1822

William Hendricks, Dem. -----1822-1825

James B. Ray (acting), Dem. -----Feb. 12 to Dec. 11, 1825

James B. Ray, Dem. -----1825-1831

Noah Noble, Whig -----1831-1837

David Wallace, Whig -----1837-1840

Samuel Bigger, Whig -----1840-1843

James Whitcomb, Dem. -----1843-1848

Paris C. Dunning (acting), Dem. -----1848-1849

Joseph A. Wright, Dem. -----1849-1857

Ashbel P. Willard, Dem. -----1857-1860

Abram A. Hammond (acting), Dem. -----1860-1861

Henry S. Lane, Rep. -----January 14 to January 16, 1861

Oliver P. Morton (acting), Rep. -----1861-1865

Oliver P. Morton, Rep. -----1865-1867

Conrad Baker (acting), Rep. -----1867-1869

Conrad Baker, Rep. -----1869-1873

Thomas A. Hendricks, Dem. -----1873-1877

James D. Williams, Dem. -----1877-1880

Isaac P. Gray (acting), Dem. -----1880-1881

Albert G. Porter, Rep. -----1881-1885

Isaac P. Gray, Dem. -----	1885-1889
Alvin P. Hoyey, Rep. -----	1889-1891
Ira J. Chase (acting), Rep. ----	Nov. 24, 1891 to Jan. 9, 1893
Claude Matthews, Dem. -----	1893-1897
James A. Mount, Rep. -----	1897-1901
Winfield T. Durbin, Rep. -----	1901-1905
J. Frank Hanley, Rep. -----	1905-1909
Thomas R. Marshall, Dem. -----	1909-1913
Samuel R. Ralston, Dem. -----	1913-

A CENTURY OF GROWTH.

Indiana was the first territory created out of the old Northwest Territory and the second state to be formed. It is now on the eve of its one hundredth anniversary, and it becomes the purpose of the historian in this connection to give a brief survey of what these one hundred years have done for the state. There has been no change in territory limits, but the original territory has been subdivided into counties year by year, as the population warranted, until from thirteen counties in 1816 the state grew to ninety-two counties by 1859. From 1816 to 1840 new counties were organized every year with the exception of one year. Starting in with a population of 5,641 in 1800, Indiana has increased by leaps and bounds until it now has a population of two million seven hundred thousand eight hundred and seventy-six. The appended table is interesting in showing the growth of population by decades since 1800:

Census Decades.	Population.	Increase.	Per Cent of Increase.
1800 -----	5,641		
1810 -----	24,520	18,879	334.7
1820 -----	147,178	122,658	500.2
1830 -----	343,031	195,853	133.1
1840 -----	685,866	342,835	99.9
1850 -----	988,416	302,550	44.1
1860 -----	1,350,428	362,012	36.6
1870 -----	1,680,637	330,209	24.5
1880 -----	1,978,301	297,664	17.7
1890 -----	2,192,404	214,103	10.8
1900 -----	2,516,462	324,058	14.8
1910 -----	2,700,876	184,414	7.3



Statistics are usually very dry and uninteresting, but there are a few figures which are at least instructive if not interesting. For instance, in 1910, 1,143,835 people of Indiana lived in towns and cities of more than 2,500. There were 822,434 voters, and 580,557 men between the ages of eighteen and forty-four were eligible for military service. An interesting book of statistics from which these figures are taken covering every phase of the growth of the state is found in the biennial report of the state statistician.

The state has increased in wealth as well as population and the total state tax of six thousand forty-three dollars and thirty-six cents of 1816 increased in 1915 to more than six million. In 1816 the only factories in the state were grist or saw mills; all of the clothing, furniture and most of the farming tools were made by the pioneers themselves. At that time the farmer was his own doctor, his own blacksmith, his own lawyer, his own dentist and, if he had divine services, he had to be the preacher. But now it is changed. The spinning wheel finds its resting place in the attic; a score of occupations have arisen to satisfy the manifold wants of the farmer. Millions of dollars are now invested in factories, other millions are invested in steam and electric roads, still other millions in public utility plants of all kinds. The governor now receives a larger salary than did all the state officials put together in 1861, while the county sheriff has a salary which is more than double the compensation first allowed the governor of the state.

Indiana is rich in natural resources. It not only has millions of acres of good farming land, but it has had fine forests in the past. From the timber of its woods have been built the homes for the past one hundred years and, if rightly conserved there is timber for many years yet to come. The state has beds of coal and quarries of stone which are not surpassed in any state in the Union. For many years natural gas was a boon to Indiana manufacturing, but it was used so extravagantly that it soon became exhausted. Some of the largest factories of their kind in the country are to be found in the Hoosier state. The steel works at Gary employs tens of thousands of men and are constantly increasing in importance. At Elwood is the largest tin plate factory in the world, while Evansville boasts of the largest cigar factory in the world. At South end the Studebaker and Oliver manufacturing plants turn out millions of dollars worth of goods every year. When it is known that over half of the population of the state is now living in towns and cities, it must be readily seen that farming is no longer the sole occupation. A system of railroads has been built which brings every corner of the state in close touch with Indianapolis. In fact, every county seat but four is in railroad connection with the capital of the state. Every county has its local telephone

systems, its rural free deliveries and its good roads unifying the various parts of the county. All of this makes for better civilization and a happier and more contented people.

Indiana prides herself on her educational system. With sixteen thousand public and parochial school teachers, with three state institutions of learning, a score of church schools of all kinds as well as private institutions of learning, Indiana stands high in educational circles. The state maintains universities at Bloomington and Lafayette and a normal school at Terre Haute. Many of the churches have schools supported in part by their denominations. The Catholics have the largest Catholic university in the United States at Notre Dame, while St. Mary's of the Woods at Terre Haute is known all over the world. Academies under Catholic supervision are maintained at Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Fort Wayne, Rensselaer, Jasper and Oldenburg. The Methodists have institutions at DePauw, Moore's Hill and Upland. The Presbyterian schools are Wabash and Hanover Colleges. The Christian church is in control of Butler and Merom Colleges. Concordia at Fort Wayne is one of the largest Lutheran schools in the United States. The Quakers support Earlham College, as well as the academies at Fairmount, Bloomingdale, Plainfield and Spiceland. The Baptists are in charge of Franklin College, while the United Brethern give their allegiance to Indiana Central University at Indianapolis. The Seventh-Day Adventists have a school at Boggstown. The Dunkards at North Manchester and the Mennonites at Goshen maintain schools for their respective churches.

The state seeks to take care of all of its unfortunates. Its charitable, benevolent and correctional institutions rank high among similar institutions in the country. Insane asylums are located at Indianapolis, Richmond, Logansport, Evansville and Madison. The State Soldiers' Home is at Lafayette, while the National Soldiers' Home is at Marion.

The Soldiers and Sailors' Orphans' Home at Knightstown, is maintained for the care and education of the orphan children of Union soldiers and sailors. The state educates and keeps them until they are sixteen years of age if they have not been given homes in families before they reach that age. Institutions for the education of the blind and also the deaf and dumb are located at Indianapolis. The state educates all children so afflicted and teaches them some useful trade which will enable them to make their own way in the world. The School for Feeble Minded at Fort Wayne has had more than one thousand children in attendance annually for several years. Within the past few years an epileptic village has been established at New Castle, Indiana, for the care of those so afflicted. A prison is located at

Michigan City for the incarceration of male criminals convicted by any of the courts of the state of treason, murder in the first or second degree, and of all persons convicted of any felony who at the time of conviction are thirty years of age and over. The Reformatory at Jeffersonville takes care of male criminals between the ages of sixteen and thirty, who are guilty of crimes other than those just mentioned. The female criminals from the ages of fifteen upwards are kept in the women's prison at Indianapolis. A school for incorrigible boys is maintained at Plainfield. It receives boys between the ages of seven and eighteen, although no boy can be kept after he reaches the age of twenty-one. Each county provides for its own poor and practically every county in the state has a poor farm and many of them have homes for orphaned or indigent children. Each county in the state also maintains a correctional institution known as the jail, in which prisoners are committed while waiting for trial or as punishment for convicted crime.

But Indiana is great not alone in its material prosperity, but also in those things which make for a better appreciation of life. Within the limits of our state have been born men who were destined to become known throughout the nation. Statesmen, ministers, diplomats, educators, artists and literary men of Hoosier birth have given the state a reputation which is envied by our sister states. Indiana has furnished Presidents and Vice-Presidents, distinguished members of the cabinet and diplomats of world wide fame; her literary men have spread the fame of Indiana from coast to coast. Who has not heard of Wallace, Thompson, Nicholson, Tarkington, McCutcheon, Bolton, Ade, Major, Stratton-Porter, Riley and hundreds of others who have courted the muses?

And we would like to be living one hundred years from today and see whether as much progress will have been made in the growth of the state as in the first one hundred years of its history. In 2015 poverty and crime will be reduced to a minimum. Poor houses will be unknown, orphanages will have vanished and society will have reached the stage where happiness and contentment reign supreme. Every loyal Hoosier should feel as our poetess, Sarah T. Bolton, has said:

"The heavens never spanned,  
The breezes never fanned,  
A fairer, brighter land  
Than our Indiana."

## CHAPTER II.

### GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.

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#### LOCATION AND SIZE.

Decatur county is in the southeastern part of Indiana, one county removed from the Ohio boundary, and two removed from the Ohio river. Its greatest length is twenty-one miles, greatest breadth the same. Its area is approximately three hundred and seventy-five square miles.

#### GEOLOGY AND PHYSIOGRAPHY.

Geologically, there is very little difference between this county and Jennings. In the deepest stream beds in the southern part of the county the soft limestones of the Hudson River formation appear. These outcrops are small and of no practicable importance, since they contribute nothing to the soils and are in themselves of no value. The southeastern third of this county is underlain by the Niagara limestone, perhaps the most valuable stone in the state, after the oolitic. In Decatur county it lies, as a rule, close to the surface, usually at depths of four to twelve feet on the level, outcropping on stream banks, and occasionally being found only at depths of thirty feet. It is a very valuable rock commercially in this county, being quarried extensively at Newpoint, Westport, St. Paul and in many small local quarries. The product is used for building stone, especially for trimming, for abutments, for flagging in sidewalks, and in a crushed state for macadam and for concrete construction. From the standpoint of soils, it is of importance chiefly from the fact of its resistance to weathering, which has resulted in very flat uplands. The northwestern half of the county is underlain at depths of five to forty feet by the corniferous limestone, a softer rock as a rule than the Niagara. Finally, the entire surface of the county, except near the streams, is covered with a mantle of glacial waste, which effectively covers the underlying rocks over practically all the county.



The topography of the county is a product of two great factors—the Niagara limestone and the arrangement of the drift. The latter is disposed in belts of one to five miles in width crossing the county from southwest to northeast. In the northwest corner there occurs a till-plain where the surface is nearly level, rolling in gentle waves and only a little broken by streams. Then comes a belt about four miles in width of upland—a glacial moraine. This is followed by another till-plain, from six to ten miles in width, gently rolling, with occasional knolls and swales, somewhat cut by streams. This is followed by a second ridge, averaging five miles in width, with the remaining southeastern corner occupied by a flat plain of loess. Under the last feature lies the Niagara limestone, at an average depth of seven feet. The streams are comparatively of little importance in this county as agents in bringing about the present surface, since this surface would be practically the same if the streams had not come into being. Their courses have been largely determined by the belts of drift.

#### THE SOILS IN DETAIL.

In describing the soils of this county, one can do no better than take them in their order from one side of the county to the other. At the outset, it is evident that one factor which has been of the first importance heretofore will have little to do with the soils here, namely, the character of the underlying rock. It is probable that not an acre of tillable soil in this county has resulted from the disintegration of the underlying rock, but has, on the contrary, been carried here through the agency of the ice from some region to the north. We shall begin our discussion of the soils in this county with a soil which is known as the Miami clay loam.

This soil occurs in a small area in the extreme southeastern corner of the county. It is part of the great area of this soil which occurs in Ripley county. It is there described as a yellow clay, sometimes almost white where it is dry, with mottles of darker yellow in its deeper portions. This soil is underlain with blue till, and in most places grades into that form of glacial waste imperceptibly. It consists almost entirely of clay, with a small admixture (usually less than five per cent) of sand. There are practically no gravel pebbles in it. It is a pretty good material for tile and brickmaking, and has been used considerably for that in the past. From the farming standpoint it is poor. Grasses do fairly well, and wheat. Fertilizing must be constantly done, and, away from the streams, tiling.



MCCOY'S LAKE.



## THE MIAMI SILT LOAM.

This soil is distributed so as to cover almost one-third the area of the county. It forms a belt in the southeastern part of the county, almost the full width of the territory on the south, and narrowing to about five miles on the north. It must be understood that this soil is not uniform throughout its extent. An average sample would show about sixty per cent clay, twenty per cent silt, fifteen to eighteen per cent fine sand, and some little gravel in spots. As one approaches the Miami clay loam, however, this composition changes until the sand is reduced to five per cent or less, and the clay correspondingly larger in amount. It is impossible to use any hard and fast rule in separating these areas, but the presence or absence of gravel pebbles gives about the line as mapped. Going to the northwest, as one approaches the ridge, this soil becomes sandier on account of the outwash from the moraine, and is to be distinguished from the Miami sandy loam because the latter has no clay subsoil, while the silt loam has.

The Miami silt loam is a yellow to brown soil with a subsoil usually darker in color, and much streaked and mottled with iron oxide. A few concretions of bog iron ore occur in this soil, and a good many glacial pebbles. Rarely boulders are found, sometimes of large size. The subsoil grows heavier and more tenacious as one digs deeper, and at four to eight feet is a very stiff clay. It is not, however, blue till; and this character serves to distinguish the Miami silt loam from the Miami clay loam. The farming value of this soil varies considerably with reference to the place of observation. Down near the Miami clay, this soil is very much like its neighbor—poor, ill-drained and not valued very highly. It is flat and swampy by nature, due to the closeness to the surface of the Niagara. Tiling must be resorted to constantly, and the soil is so poor that often a field will not repay the expense of drainage. Practically the only good crops are grasses, and sometimes wheat, if fertilizer enough be used. As one approaches the ridge, however, the increasing percentage of sand results in a looser soil, permitting much of the rainfall to soak into the soil; tiling helps here, also. Then the Niagara is here somewhat deeper, and the surface, therefore, more rolling. In this sandier region corn can be grown with success, as well as wheat and grass. Some of the best farms in Decatur county are in this region, close to the foot of the ridge. They owe their superior fertility solely to the outwash from this ridge, for at distances of two to four miles out from it corn



makes only half a crop. It is said that one can tell within five rows where one soil begins and the other ends.

#### UPLAND CLAY LOAM.

A belt some four miles in width succeeds the Miami silt loam, which has been called here the upland clay loam. It has been so called for two reasons. First, much of it is really upland, standing visibly higher than the till-plains on either side. Secondly, the knolls appear to be principally clay, and very often are entirely of that material. It must not be understood that this belt is a continuous ridge, extending as a well-marked divide from one corner of the county to the other. It is, on the contrary, a belt of hill and hollow. It is made up of a great number, possibly five hundred, low, rounded knolls, with swales or sags between. The knolls average, perhaps, thirty feet higher than the plains, and the swales are probably about at the plain level. The soil of the typical knoll is yellow in color at the surface, grading into a darker yellow at depths of two to four feet. It is made up principally of clay, with a good deal (about ten per cent.) of fine sand in its composition. Besides these, it contains, here and there, small pockets of gravel, and often, at depths of sixteen to thirty feet, a gravel base; and huge boulders are often found in these gravel bases. In the swales, the soil is sandy, with little clay in evidence. It is black or brown in color, due to the presence of much humus. Usually, at depths of six to ten feet, sheets of clay are found, which dip upward in every direction, forming a little saucer-shaped depression, in the middle of which lies the lowland. Many of these little hollows were unodubtedly, in a former age, lakes. Some of them are still marshy, and practically all require tiling. The soil here is remarkably fertile, ranking with any in the state. It is great corn soil, and is rarely planted to anything else, unless it be clover. The knolls, on the other hand, are better for wheat and grass. A farm in this belt is a joy forever, with its capacity for varied crops, with its excellent drainage, and the abundance of pure water which can be had by driving wells into the gravel at the base of the hills. Very little fertilizer is used here aside from the barnyard products and clover. There are many fine farms in this belt.

#### MIAMI SAND LOAM.

The Miami sand loam occupies a belt averaging five miles in width lying west of the ridge soil. It is, as the name implies, a "light-colored glacial

soil." It is, however, light-colored only on the knolls and knobs, which occur plentifully in its surface, interrupted by extensive lower grounds. It is a typical till-plain, uninfluenced by anything except glacial action. In general, it would be called level, varying throughout the county probably less than fifty feet between its highest and lowest points. Yet there is not a flat farm in the area, and not many single fields so flat that cultivation is difficult. A good deal of tile is used in the lower grounds, and is said to yield a high income on the investment. The knolls, which make up perhaps ten per cent of the total area, are far less fertile than the lowlands. They contain considerable sand, and give up their water content easily, either by evaporation into the air or by conduction into the nearby lowlands. In a dry summer, even of average dryness, they therefore usually yield far less than the swales. They make up so little of the total surface, however, that one forgets their shortcomings on account of the superior excellence of the lowlands. These areas, which often are two hundred acres in extent, are the banner corn soils of Decatur county. They are carefully farmed also, being put in clover every fourth or fifth year. Oats are good here also, and, over this soil area, wheat yields well enough to be a very important crop, especially on farms where the knoll land is much in evidence. Occasionally throughout this area occur drumlins, whose graceful swells have tempted every farmer owning one to build his house upon it. Some of the famous farms of this county have, as no little part of their claim to honor, the beautiful situation of the homestead on one of these hills, commanding a view of every field of the estate. A particularly large and beautiful one of these drumlins can be seen from the cars of the Big Four railway and the interurban about one-half mile east of Adams.

The remainder of the soils in this county belong to one or the other of the soils already described. In the extreme northwest corner is a little triangle of Miami sandy loam, and just east of this there is a small belt of upland clay loam. Along the larger streams there occur little strips of bottom ground (mapped as Waverley) which differ little from the surrounding slopes, and are of such little extent as to need no extended description. These bottoms are usually not more than one-fourth mile in width, and are composed of material washed from the neighboring uplands. As a rule, they are pretty wet and require tiling, but when drained they are valuable little fields.

There are few counties in the state which are any better farmed than Decatur, especially on the sandier portions. In the southeast corner the heavy clay soil limits farming practically to the grasses and small grain, but in at least eighth-tenths of the county any crop suitable to the latitude can

be grown successfully. On the typical corn lands corn yields as well, year by year, as anywhere in the state, and the same farm which yields a "bumper" corn crop may, the same year, yield a good wheat crop on the more clayey knolls. Grasses thrive in the wet bottom grounds, and good water is easily obtained. All conditions are favorable to stock raising, and much of the corn of this county goes to market as fat hogs and cattle. Such a method, of course, cannot be otherwise than good farming, since practically everything is returned to the soil, and in Decatur county most of the farm lands are continually increasing in value. The excellence of transportation has a great deal to do with farm values here. There is scarcely a farm in the county farther than six miles from a railway, and the vast majority are within three miles. An excellent system of macadamized and gravelled roads connects almost every community with the railway.

## MECHANICAL ANALYSIS OF DECATUR COUNTY SOILS.

*Miami Clay Loam.*

	1mm <sup>+</sup>	.16mm <sup>+</sup>	.08mm <sup>+</sup>	.04mm <sup>+</sup>	.0017mm <sup>+</sup>
	Gravel.	Sand.	Very fine sand.	Silt.	Clay.
Soil -----	0.7%	11.8%	6.3%	61.3%	20.2%
Subsoil -----	.6%	16.3%	8.8%	56.6%	17.6%

*Miami Sandy Loam.*

	1mm <sup>+</sup>	.16mm <sup>+</sup>	.08mm <sup>+</sup>	.04mm <sup>+</sup>	.0017mm <sup>+</sup>
	Gravel.	Sand.	Very fine sand.	Silt.	Clay.
Soil -----	4.6%	18.3%	18.8%	32.5%	26.1%
Subsoil -----	5.8%	19.8%	16.6%	33.8%	24.2%

## CHAPTER III.

### COUNTY ORGANIZATION.

Early in the spring of 1820 the Federal government sent out several squads of surveyors to lay out the "New Purchase," lands acquired from the Delaware Indians by the treaty of St Mary's (1819), embracing all of the eastern and central part of the present state of Indiana. Most of these surveyors were young men, some of whom were inexperienced; but they were all well endowed with high animal spirits and bodily vigor.

They worked their way through the wilderness, much of which had never before been traversed by white men, cutting their way through thickets with axes, wading swamps and fording rivers, sleeping out at nights, wherever they happened to be when the sun sank, and enduring much keen discomfort in order that the land might be surveyed and opened for settlement.

Farms and towns are still laid out in accordance with this original survey, and whenever a section is large by a few acres or small by a hundred or so, the cause can be directly traced to mistakes made by these pioneer engineers, the men who ran their blind lines through the forests. In one section of the "New Purchase" there is a point toward which all lines in that part of the country tend to veer. It is said that in 1820 a distillery stood at this place, and that, thinking of it, the surveyors unconsciously let their instruments veer in its direction.

Decatur county was surveyed by men who lived here and who later became leaders in the community, which grew up rapidly after the "New Purchase" was thrown open for settlement. The survey of what later became Decatur county was made by Thomas Hendricks and Samuel Hueston, with four assistants. Hendricks was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and it is presumed he got the job of surveying this section of the "New Purchase" through his brother, William Hendricks, who was then governor of Indiana. His assistants were neighbors whom he brought from Pennsylvania with him.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

In October of the year 1820, a government land office opened at Brookville; the surveyed land was ready for settlement and the tide of immigra-



tion began. The first land patent issued in what is now Decatur county was to John Shellhorn, for what has since been known as the Shellhorn farm, between the Big and Little Flatrock, on the Moscow road. The Shellhorn family still retains this property for which its ancestor received a patent from the United States government, October 3, 1820.

Shellhorn took his claim near the junction of the Big and Little Flatrock, thinking that it would probably be but a short time until that place would be chosen for a county seat. He laid out the town of Rockville and then waited for his visions of towering spires to materialize. But the legislature, in fixing the boundaries of Decatur county, threw Rockville into one corner of the county and Shellhorn's dreams were gone forever. He died a few months later. Rockville has never appeared upon a map of the county.

Two of John Shellhorn's neighbors, James Hobbs and James Wise, took out land patents six days later, Hobbs locating one mile east of the present site of Clarksburg, and Wise one mile south of where that town is now located. Although Shellhorn was the first to enter land in Decatur county, he was by no means the first settler. No sooner was the ink on the treaty of St. Mary's dry, than the tide of immigration to the "New Purchase" began. All along the border were bold spirits waiting for this unknown country to become the property of the government. No sooner had the Indians renounced all claims to it than the settlers flocked into it.

By the treaty of St. Mary's, all land located between the Whitewater on the east and White river on the west, north of the old boundary line, was made the property of the national government. All along the borders of this territory were pioneers waiting for the Indians to be shoved out. No sooner was the treaty made than the movement of the pioneers began.

Probably the first to reach Decatur county was John Fugit and his son, John. Griffy Griffiths, with his wife and son, Ishmael, came next. Then came the remainder of the Fugit family; the wife, four sons, a daughter, and a Mrs. Garrison. Later in the spring Cornelius and Jesse Cain, Elias Garrard, William McCoy and their families arrived settling in the vicinity of Clarksburg.

About the same time a settlement was made on Little Flatrock, east of Milroy, which has produced a number of men of high distinction, among them being Dr. Raymond T. Brown, William J. Brown, three times a member of Congress, and Admiral George W. Brown, of the United States navy. Early in the spring of 1820, a number of families settled in the Clarksburg and Springhill neighborhoods, among them Dr. Andrew Rankin, David

Martin, Cornelius Cain and Andrew Rankin. About the same time Seth Lowe and William Custer settled in the Kingston neighborhood.

From the date of the first entry to the end of the year there were eighty-nine land entries. Some of these were for as much as half a section, but most of them were eighty-acre tracts. The entries this year, by township, follow :

Fugit township—John Hicklin, Nathan Lewis, John Schultz, Robert Lochridge, John Lochridge, William Henderson, George Kline, George Bryson, Edward Jackman, Jesse Robinson, William Penny, Griffe Griffiths, Cornelius Cain, George Craig, John Short, Jesse Cain, John Davison, Moses Wyley, Richard Tyner, James Henderson, George Cowan, Joseph Henderson, David Martin, William Lindsey, Joseph K. Rankin, Thomas Martin, Thomas Thorp, Adam Rankin, Martin Logan, Alex Logan, James Logan, Robert Imlay, Daniel Swem, Elias Jarrard, Thomas E. Hall, Charles Collett, William Payden, James Hobbs, David Stout, James Saunders and Joseph Hopkins.

Washington township—Benjamin Drake, William Ross, Joshua Cobb, John Marrs, Thomas Hendricks, James Wooley, James Elder, Robert Elder, Andrew Elder, Adam R. Meek, Joseph Pryor, Allen Pryor and William Parks.

Sand Creek township—Elijah Davis.

Adams township—John Shellhorn, John M. Robinson, Jonathan Paul, Isaac Sandford, Jonathan McCarty, Joseph Owens, David Jewitt, Thomas Price, Manley Kimble, John G. Dawson, Abraham Heaton, George Evans, William Copeland, Abner Leland, William Pearce, Edward Sweet, James H. Brown, Jacob Sidner, Peter Zeizler, Philip Isley, John Wood, McCoy McCarty, John Hizer and Peter Weathers.

The entries of this year were nearly all along the northern line of the county, but ten being near the center and two south of it. The entries the following year were mostly in the same section, the early settlers endeavoring to get closer to the larger water-courses, as the latter afforded drainage. The more level sections, now the best land in the county, were then worthless, as no system, other than natural drainage, was then known.

#### THOSE WHO CAME THE NEXT YEAR.

Newcomers in 1821 were as follow :

Fugit township—James Moss, Samuel Martin, George Marlow, Daniel Robertson, James Oliver, Seth Lowe, Nathan Smith, George Underwood,

George Kendall, George Donner, Gideon Jenks, William Braden, Robert E. Donnell, Edgar Poe, Jacob Blackledge, Nathan Underwood, Thomas Cross, Sam Githens, Robert Hall, Charles Swearingin, John Wilcoxin, John Hopkins, Samuel Donnell, Ralph Williams, Sampson Alley, William Smith, Nathan Lewis, Isaac Darnell, Daniel Caldwell, J. J. Stites, Henry Roberts, Henry McDonald, Samuel Donner, Robert Wilson, Edward Davis, Cyrus Hamilton, Zenas Darnell, Lewis Hendricks, John Chanslow, Thomas I. Glass, Daniel Bell, William W. Marlow, Peter Miller, Jacob Miller and Benjamin Snelling.

Adams township—William Harbard, Edward Tanner, William Peterson, Robert McCarty, Enoch McCarty, Martin Adkins, Jacob Johnson, Richard Guthrie, Henry Gullion, Sarah Smith, Lewis Owens, Peter Smith, Austin Clark and William Brown.

Clay township—Doddridge Alley, Josiah Dayton, M. H. Williams, George Craig, William I. Lowrey, Elijah Craig, Daniel Pike and Eli Pike.

Clinton township—Jesse Womack, John Montgomery, Joseph Weihart, Daniel Crume, Thomas Craig, Joseph Jones, Jacob Underwood, Israel Harris, John Logan, Nathan Sidwell, James Carter, John Thomson, Robert Montgomery, Henry Glass, Moses Vanlew, Matthew Campbell, George Donner, Robert Wilson, Nathan Thorp, Joseph Chambers, Joseph Clark, William Hamilton, Robert Drake, Michael Swope and William Ryan.

Washington township—John Davis, John Moore, John Walker, Benjamin Walker, Alvah H. Graves, Joseph Rutherford, Hugh Montgomery, Henry Montgomery, Andrew Horsely, Elijah Tremain, Samuel Logan, Erastus Lathrop, James Richardson, David Williamson, John House, J. P. Richardson, Otha White, Eli Eggleston, Philip Dayton, John Nelson, David Dalrymple, Charles D. Misner, William Hendrickson, Samuel Hamilton, Robert Hamilton, Nathaniel Patton, James E. Hamilton, John Logan, William Elder, William Floyd, Robert Retherford, Joseph Retherford, James Sefton, Barlow Aldrich and Zachariah Townsend.

Sand Creek township—Daniel Herron, Nat Robbins and William Robbins.

Marion township—Dudley Taylor and John Robbins.

Save for a very few exceptions these entries were made for actual settlement purposes, and within a year most of the owners had taken possession of their property. At a special election in 1821 there were one hundred and forty votes cast, and as the law required a residence in the state of a year before a man could vote, it is probable that this did not number more than half the male citizens of the county.

## CREATION OF DECATUR COUNTY.

Decatur county originally formed a part of Delaware county, an immense tract of land ranging east to the Ohio line and north to, and including, the present county of Delaware. But in 1821 the state Legislature provided for breaking up this territory into smaller units, and appointed commissioners to locate county seats for Decatur, Shelby and Rush counties.

In the days when Decatur county was a part of Delaware, there was no law to govern the community; for Delaware county was a civic organization without entity—a great stretch of territory extending from the ague-cursed Driftwood bottoms until lost in the swamps of the Mississinnewa and Wabash rivers. There were no courts of justice; no vested police powers, each man being a law unto himself. There is a tradition, however, that the elder Fugit had been a justice of the peace in Franklin county and that he brought his commission and docket with him, performing marriages and dispensing justice to all coming of their own accord to seek it. Those wishing to enter the matrimonial state were compelled to go to Brookville to secure the marriage license.

In the legislative act creating Decatur county, its boundaries were fixed as follows: "Beginning at the southwest corner of section 18, in township 8, north of range 9, east of the principal meridian; thence north fifteen miles to the southwest corner of section 6, in township 10, north of range 8, east; thence east three miles to the southeast corner of section 33, in township 11, north of range 8, east; thence north seven miles to the northwest corner of section 34, in township 12, north of range 8, east; thence east eighteen miles to the west boundary of Franklin county; thence south with said boundary to the north line of Ripley county; thence with the old boundary line to the north line of Jennings county, thence west with the Jennings county line to the place of beginning."

Commissioners appointed to select sites for the county seats of the three counties named were Edward Ballinger, Henry Ristine, Green P. Webster, and Abraham Dumont. This commission decided to meet on May 7, 1822, to select a county seat for this county, but, for some unexplained reason, only Ballenger reached Greensburg, which had been selected as the meeting place. Another meeting was fixed for June 12, on which date Greensburg was selected as the county seat; parts of tracts of land offered by Thomas Hendricks and John Walker being accepted. The tract accepted contained one hundred acres.



Four donations of land were offered for the county seat, although the records show only two. The first was the Hendricks donation of sixty acres, bounded by Lincoln street, Main street, and Central avenue, in Greensburg. The Walker donation lay just south of this and contained one hundred acres, extending from Broadway to Lincoln street. In addition, Joseph English offered a site two miles southwest of the present county seat and Richard Hall offered land three miles northeast of the city.

There was considerable bad blood existent for a time on account of the selection of the county seat. Charges were freely made that Hendricks and Walker had been guilty of log-rolling at Shelbyville and Rushville. Probably the most satisfactory location, from the viewpoint of the present day would have been the English site, but no one in that day had the slightest notion that eastern Sand Creek, and southern Marion and Salt Creek townships ever would be settled.

The site having then been fixed, the board of commissioners proceeded to lay off the city of Greensburg, and fixed Monday, September 1, 1822, for the first sale of lots.

#### FIRST COUNTY ELECTION.

Upon approval by the governor of the special act of the Legislature creating the county, Henry H. Talbott was appointed temporary clerk and William Ross, sheriff, until an election could be held. The sheriff was charged with the duty of dividing the county into three commissioner districts, calling an election and seeing that the same was properly conducted. As Ross decided that he would be a candidate for the sheriff's office, it was deemed improper that this office should be filled by an election at a time when he was, by necessity, in charge of the polls. Accordingly, selection of the sheriff was deferred until the regular election in the following August, when Ross was badly worsted by Doddridge Alley, who was just then entering upon his office-holding career.

Complete returns of this first county election, held May 14, 1822, follows:

Clerk of circuit court—John B. Potter, 38; Henry H. Talbott, 49; James H. Brown, 34; John B. Fugit, 31.

Recorder—John B. Potter, 34; Henry H. Talbott, 46; James H. Brown, 14; John B. Fugit, 22.

Associate judge—Martin Atkins, 47; Joshua Cobb, 31; John Lin-

ville, 45; John Fugit, 48; James C. Dayton, 19; Daniel Crume, 7; John Driver, 11; Enoch James, 32.

County commissioner, eastern district—Seth Lowe, 96; William Henderson, 45; George Marlow, 21. Central district—William Parks, 45; William Courtney, 14; John Parks, 1. Western district—William Harbord, 69; Green McCarty, 37; Doddridge Alley, 19; Paul Brown, 39; Jonathan McCarty, 1.

At the first meeting of the county commissioners the following officials were appointed: Overseers of the poor—Fugit township, William Custer and Joseph Henderson; Washington township, Robert Ross and William Floyd; Adams township, Jonathan McCarty and David Jewitt. Fence viewers—William Leopold, Robert Imlay and George Marlow, Fugit township; Abraham Miller, Jonathan Davis and Andrew Horsley, Washington township, and David Johnson, David Forester and Joseph Bennett for Adams township.

The board then appointed John Hopkins as county treasurer for one year, and Enoch McCarty was appointed lister of taxables. At the next meeting the names of Thomas Hendricks and David Montague were certified to the governor for his selection of a county surveyor. The appointment was given to Hendricks. The next appointment to be made was that of county agent, which was given to John B. Potter. His first work was to lay off the town of Greensburg, after which he turned his attention to the erection of a jail.

#### BEGINNING OF LAW AND ORDER.

The following grand jury was empanelled and charged on Monday, October 7, 1822: John Hopkins, foreman; Alley Pryor, Joseph Henderson, Nathaniel Robbins, Fielding Lamasters, Lewis Pleakenstalver, Isaac Darnell, Robert Harbord, John M. Robinson, Griffie Griffiths, John House, William M. Smith, Tobis Donner, Joseph Rankin, John Forsyth and Andrew Horsley.

This jury was in session only one day, its members receiving seventy-five cents each for their services; and returned eight indictments, all of which were for assault and battery. Those indicted were Patrick Hudson, William Thorp, Abraham Miller, Madison Redding, Isaac Parnell, Lodwick Cook, David Stout and McCoy McCarty.

Says the record further: "This day appeared in open court, Madison Redding, who entered a plea of guilty," and their honors, after due delib-

eration and taking into consideration the magnitude of the offense, "made his fine in the sum of six and one-fourth cents."

When Talbott appeared at the first session of court to file his bond as clerk, objection was raised on the grounds that he was not of the legal age, and that he was not a resident of Decatur county. Says the record, "Joseph A. Hopkins moved to reject the bond, which the court, after mature deliberation, overruled." It seems appropriate in this connection to say a word concerning Talbott. It has fallen to few men to serve the public so long or in so creditable a manner as was given to Henry H. Talbott. He so thoroughly won the esteem of his fellow citizens that it was impossible for anyone to defeat him when it came election time. He served as clerk continuously until the new constitution was adopted in 1852. He was a patriot in the truest sense of the word, and although he was sixty-one years old when the call was issued for volunteers in 1861, he proffered his services. They were declined, on account of his years; so he accompanied the troops as a sutler. During the battle of Phillipi he seized a gun and followed his comrades into the fray. He died July 21, 1872.

At the first annual election, August 5, 1822, electors voted for a governor, lieutenant governor, a representative for the seventeenth Congress, to fill a vacancy, a congressman for the third district, a sheriff and a coroner. The following vote was cast:

For Governor—	Fugit.	Washington.	Adams.	Total.
William Hendricks-----	68	52	48	168
Julius Howe-----	3	--	--	3
For Lieutenant Governor—				
Ratliffe Boone-----	36	27	33	96
Erasmus Powell-----	34	27	--	51
William Polk-----	--	13	14	27
David Maxwell-----	10	1	--	11
For Congress (vancancy)—				
Jonathan Jennings-----	49	13	42	104
Davis Floyd -----	5	28	5	38
For Congress (third district)—				
John Test-----	28	39	18	85
Ezra Ferris-----	7	11	29	47
Samuel C. Vance-----	31	12	--	43

For Sheriff—	Fugit.	Washington.	Adams.	Total.
Doddridge Alley-----	7	18	24	49
William Ross-----	28	5	4	37
James Saunders-----	5	24	1	30
William Loyd-----	21	1	--	22
For Coroner—				
William Custer-----	18	63	9	90
Robert Shields-----	32	--	--	32
Jonah C. Dayton-----	12	2	37	51

There was at this time but one party in the state, the National Republican, and voters cast their ballots according to their individual preferences. Two years later this party split, part going with Andrew Jackson and part with Henry Clay.

#### COURT HOUSE HISTORY.

The first board of county commissioners met on the 14th day of May, 1822, at the house of Thomas Hendricks, a double log building, one story in height, on what is now known as Taylor avenue, Greensburg, near where East street crosses the avenue. Hendricks' house was used as a court house until 1825. In that year it was proposed to build a court house, and the following transcript of page 121 of the first book of the record of the commissioners' court shows the specifications that were drawn up for it:

"The State of Indiana

"Decatur County

"At a special meeting of the board of Justices of Decatur County on Saturday the 15th day of January, 1825, for the purpose of drafting a plan for a Court House.

"The Hon. George W. Hopkins, Zachariah Garton, Robert Church and Dillard Drake, Justices.

"This day the board proceeded to draft a plan for a Court house for the said County of Decatur upon the following plan, Towit. The foundation to be built three feet high and to be one foot above the ground at the highest part of the ground, to be laid in a workmanlike manner with good stone and lime mortar, three feet thick at the bottom and twenty-two inches thick at the top to be battered on each side equally—forty foot square. The walls of the first story twenty-two inches thick forty feet square of good brick fifteen feet in the clear, laid in a workmanlike manner, the front a flemish bond and good sand brick. One double pannel door in front lined



with inch plank on the back, with good and suffecient lock, and a bolt at the bottom on each door, the door sill cut out of stone to extend at each end six inches in the wall twenty four inches wide of a suitable thickness. the door to be eight feet high in the clear & five feet wide in the clear, and a circular glass top, the front of the house to be to the east, two windows on each side of the door, of 24 lites each eight by ten. The North and South sides of the house, to be a door in the center of each wall eight feet high and five feet wide in the clear a double batten door. with good locks & bolts at the bottom of each door. One window on each side of the doors of 24 lites. 8 by 10s—A stone sill at the bottom of each door of the same description as the sill of the front door. On the West side to be a window in the Centre six feet from the floor to the bottom of the window of 30 lites 8. by 10. with a circular glass top. One window on each side of 24 lites 8. by 10s. of the same heighth as the other windows.

“The second story of good brick 13 feet high in the clear. The walls eighteen inches thick the front of good sand brick and laid a flemish bond, One 36 lite window in front 8. by 10s with a circular glass top. And one 24 lite window on each side of it. And 3 windows on each of the other sides of the house of 24 lites each, eight by 10s. four fire places in the second story one in each corner of the house. A plain Cornice. The roof nine feet pitch, to be covered with good joint shingles five inches to the weather, shingles eighteen inches long. Cupelo twelve feet in diameter—eight square, sixteen feet high, and a circular top, a circular window in each square with Venetian shutters and necessary arrangements to receive the Spere.

“Four posts 15 inches diameter eight square, to be set on pillars of Stone in the first story, the pillars to be sunk three feet in the ground, three feet and a half square at the bottom to be equally battered to the top to a square of 22 inches to be 12 feet apart in the Center of the house; two girders to extend across the house 12 feet apart from the center of each and rest on the posts named, the girders to be 15 inches wide and 12 inches deep and the joists to be 12 inches deep by 3 inches thick, to be framed in the girders two feet apart from the Centre of each joist. The frame of the Second Story to be similar to the frame of the First Story.

“The stairs to start from the South east Corner of the house, and ascend to the passage. The window and door frames to be made in a workmanlike manner.”

On March 7, following, the order was issued to receive bids for the construction of the building. The order is here given in full:

"Ordered that the Court house be built on the Public Square in the town of Greensburgh and that the Centre of the Square be the Centre of the house, to be completed on or before the first day of May, 1827. And the terms of payments as follows. four hundred dollars to be paid on or before the 25th of December next, and the balance to be paid in three equal annual instalments thereafter. Bond and approved Security will be required of the purchaser in a penalty of double the sum that the building is sold for. The person or persons bidding the same off and failing to Comply with the Conditions above Stated, will forfeit the sum of fifty dollars to be recovered by suit in the name of the County Agent to be applied to the use of the County in building said house. The person bidding off the same shall give bond and security as above stated within fifteen days from this date."

On Monday, November 6, 1826, the board of justices, which was now made up of George W. Hopkins, president; Wesley White, William E. Crawford, Griffie Griffiths, William Fowler, Samuel Bryan, James Donnell and Zachariah Garton, gave notice of the "sale" of some more work on the new court house. This time it was for some minor work, and, from all that could be determined, the building was ready for occupation by the specified time in May, 1827.

This building was occupied until 1854, when it was condemned by the board and the work of its demolition commenced that summer. However, on June 8, 1853, the commissioners—Smith Reiley, B. H. Harney and H. S. Burke—appointed B. W. Wilson, I. G. Monfort and B. H. Harney as a committee to draft plans and specifications for the construction of a new court house, "the whole cost of said house, when completed and furnished, not to exceed thirty thousand dollars." This committee reported on September 7, its report was accepted and it was dismissed. The commissioners then employed Edwin May to superintend the construction and appointed B. W. Wilson, I. G. Montfort and B. H. Harney to act as a building committee and as the representatives of the commissioners. May was instructed to consult with them on all contracts, payments and changes in the original plan.

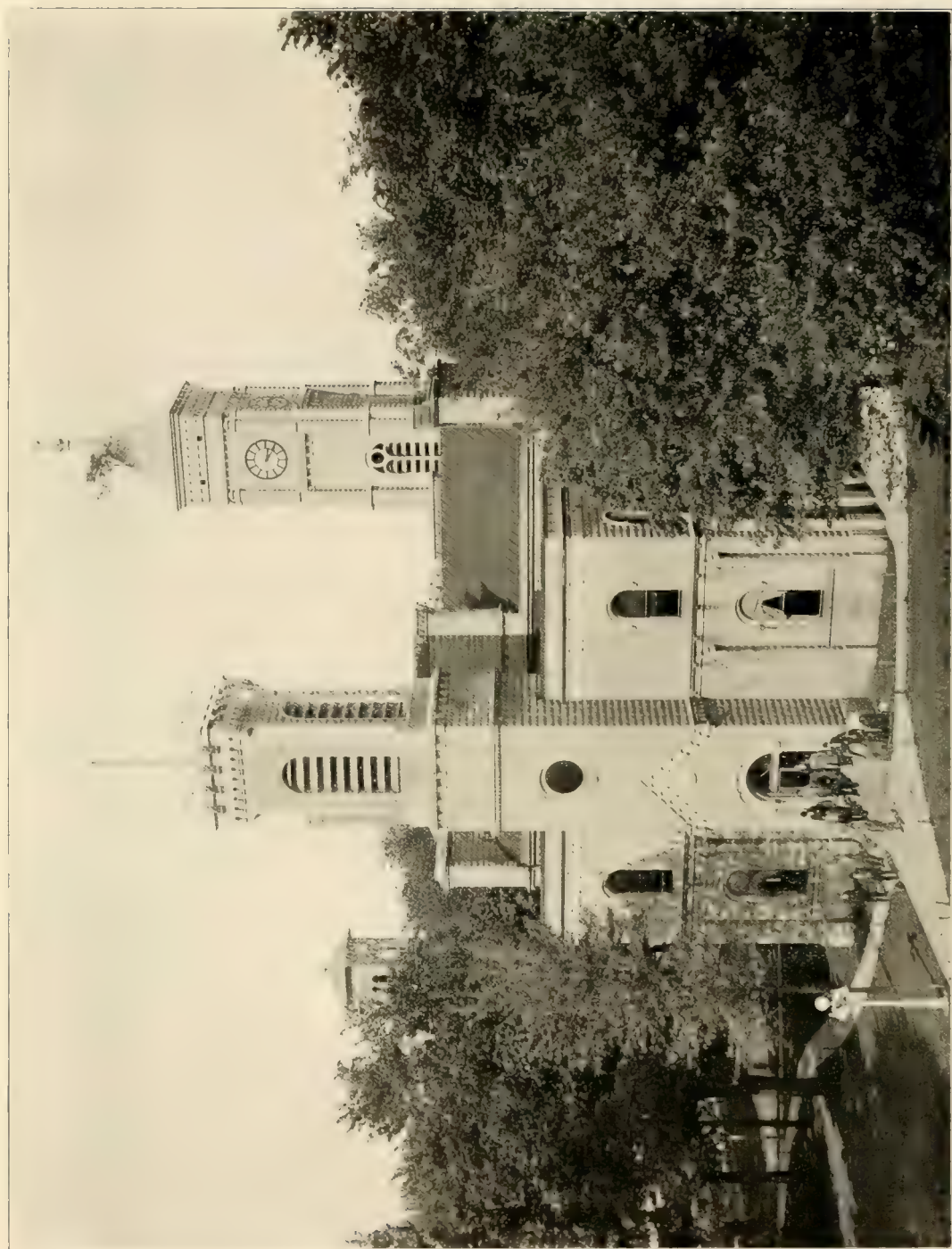
On March 6, 1854, the contract for the stone work was let to W. W. Lowe and Jacob M. Hiltertrand. But it was not until June 19, 1855, that the contract for the brick work was placed. It went to R. B. Thomson and Henry H. Talbott for four dollars and twenty-nine cents per thousand bricks actually used, the waste and soft bricks to be deducted from the kiln count. The contractors were to furnish all labor, tools, "including hods, ladders and all necessary apparatus for the raising of the bricks on the tower and

other parts of the building, at their own cost and charges," but the county was to furnish "brick, lime and sand, water in the wells in the public square, together with all the scaffolding and nails." A bid was made by N. T. Horton, of Cincinnati, by the pound for the frame for the galvanized iron roof and the iron doors, window shutters and stairs. He asked thirty-seven and a half dollars per hundred square feet for laying the iron roof. The estimated cost of the new house on the plan as first accepted was forty thousand dollars, but the plans were changed and departed from until, when completed, it, with the improvements of the grounds and the iron fence around it, cost the county close to one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

As early as 1885 the remodeling of the court house was discussed in the commissioners' court, and on June 12, 1888, the board of commissioners, after consideration of the project, decided that the county treasury was too depleted for any such step to be taken at that time; however, they directed that such be done in the spring of 1889, and on December 10, 1888, they ordered the auditor to secure plans and specifications. At a special session called on January 30, 1889, the proposals submitted by McDonald Brothers, of Louisville, were accepted and the contract of drafting plans and specifications awarded to them. On March 18, 1889, bids were received for "remodeling the court house" and for "heating the court house." The contract for the first was awarded to J. C. McGarvey & Brother, of Cincinnati, Ohio, for twenty-seven thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine dollars, with two thousand one hundred dollars reduction for certain changes that might be made. The highest bid was for thirty-seven thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars. Security was ordered to be presented on the following 25th of March. But it was on March 26, and not March 25, as stated by the tablet on the west wall of the corridor in the court house, that the contract was approved and the cost, after several changes, set at twenty-four thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars. The heating contract was awarded to I. D. Smead & Company, of Toledo, Ohio, for twenty-seven hundred and fifty dollars. The contract for furnishing the court room, library, the judge's private office, and the offices of the clerk, sheriff, recorder, superintendent of schools, treasurer and auditor was given to the Grand Rapids Furniture Company, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, on February 7, 1890. The building was inspected and accepted by the commissioners and architect on March 14, 1890, "excepting the painting, and a part of the wainscot in the obscure portions of the corridors, the clearing out of the cellar and refitting the same." The commissioners at the time the contract for remodeling was







DECATUR COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

let were, Everett Hamilton, Henry Steining and Ezra Guthrie, and when the building was accepted, Henry Steining, Ezra Guthrie and Augustus Miller.

In 1903 the building was in need of repairs and on March 7 the commissioners—Jethro C. Meeks, Uriah Privett and Jesse Styers—awarded H. L. Shute the contract of making certain repairs, for fifty-two hundred dollars. At this same session of the commissioners, plans for a hitchrack were submitted by the engineer, J. W. Craig, and accepted. Bids were ordered to be received for the sale of the old fence about the court house square park at this same meeting.

#### THE TREE ON THE COURT HOUSE TOWER.

In the summer of 1870 a citizen of Greensburg, whose name posterity has not preserved, was examining the court house tower with a spyglass, when he noticed, springing from the third crevice above the water sheet on the east side of the tower, one hundred and ten feet above the ground, a small twig. From that day down to the present time the fame of the tree on the tower has been heralded throughout the world. Apostrophes, prose epics, poems galore and even songs have been written about it. Strangers to the city always ask to be shown the curiosity the first thing, many not being convinced that there is such a tree until they actually see it.

The first picture of the tree appeared in a local paper in the issue of January 10, 1879, when the court house and tree were shown in connection with an advertisement of St. John's Lone Tree Medicine Company. Since that time the tree has been exhibited pictorially all over the world, and postal cards by the tens of thousands have convinced a doubting world that such a tree really exists. By 1884, according to one of the local papers, the bole of the tree was four inches in diameter and the tree itself was nine feet in height. Some time during the latter part of the seventies other trees sprang up on the tower, and at one time no less than seven were casting their shade over the tower. This grove was allowed to flourish until the court house was remodeled in 1888, when it was deemed necessary to remove some of them. The largest tree of the forest was getting of such dimensions that it was threatening to tear up the roof, and since it was a question of either saving the tree or the roof, the tree had to be sacrificed. Three other small trees were removed at this time. Since then all the others have died except the one on the northeast corner. At the present time (1915)

this one tree is about eighteen feet high and has a bole of about five inches in diameter. Strange to say, it never seems to be affected by the summer droughts, but remains green even when the trees in the court house yard are showing the effects of dry weather.

Among the many poems written about this famous tree, the one by D. Eckley Hunter, then of Washington, Indiana, and an instructor in the teachers' county institute at the time, is the best which has come to attention. Professor Hunter read it at the close of the session, August 22, 1884. Mr. Hunter has a fairy to explain the origin of the tree and then draws a moral. The complete poem has fourteen stanzas, but only eight of them are here given:

THE GROVE ON THE COURT HOUSE TOWER.

The wonders of nature are many, I ween,  
They come to my mind in a shower;  
But where may so wondrous a wonder be seen  
As the grove on the top of the tower?

It troubled my dreams, it puzzled my brain,  
Till Ina and Pearl with a flower,  
Came in and the wonderful wonder made plain  
Of the grove on the top of the tower.

They said they were rambling—Pearl told me herself—  
And stopped to admire that flower  
When in it a fairy they heard tell an elf  
Of the grove on the top of the tower.

(What the fairy said)

It is many and many a year ago  
Since the men who wielded the power  
Determined to plant and determined to grow  
A grove at the foot of the tower.

They planted, they watered and they waited long  
For the shade of the leafy bower;  
At length the reward of their labors came  
In the grove at the foot of the tower.

Then angels looked down from their home above,  
And smiled on these men of power;  
And said, "We'll plant, yes, plant them a grove  
On the topmost stones of the tower."

It is thus they smile on deeds below  
That are done for a future hour;  
And that none forget, they have caused to grow  
A grove on the top of the tower.

May God bless the angels, and God bless the men  
Who plant for a future hour.  
And God bless the shade of the maples, and then  
The grove on the top of the tower.

THE COUNTY JAIL.

Until the organization of Decatur county, residents in this part of the "New Purchase" had been living without law, so consequently there were no legal punishments for transgressions. But with the organization of the county and the formation of a local government, a jail was rendered necessary. The board of commissioners, meeting on February 11, 1823, ordered the construction of a log jail and at a subsequent session, fixed its specifications as follows:

"To be twenty by twenty-four feet square; the walls to be of stone and two and one-half feet thick, laid with good lime mortar, and every hole to extend through the wall. The first story to be seven feet high; one window in the lower story to be fourteen inches square, to be bounded with solid rock three feet in length and not less than fourteen inches thick, the bars to be one and one-half inches square, well riveted to the frame and to be four squares of three inches."

The room last described was the dungeon, intended for the incarceration of prisoners of the worse type. Entrance to it was effected through a trap-door in the floor of the upper story. Construction of the upper story was very similar to that of the lower, save that those confined there got fresh air from two windows, instead of one. This room was intended for keeping prisoners jailed for minor offenses.

A narrow stairway on the outside of the building led to the door of the upper room, the only entrance to the jail. This building stood on the west side of the court house yard until 1832. It was very poorly constructed, and incapable of detaining anyone who really wanted to get out.

According to tradition, Hiram Hendricks, who, with Robert Church, did the stone work on the building, was the first person to be incarcerated therein. As the story is told, Hendricks was jailed for debt upon complaint of Owen O'Reiley. The next morning, when O'Reiley went to jail for the purpose of interviewing his debtor he found him seated outside, looking regretfully at a huge hole, which he had cut through the wall in order to get to the fresh air.

On May 4, 1830, the board ordered that "the Agent of the County, be instructed to sell to the lowest bidder the repairing of the jail of said



County in the following manner, towit, the sides of the Upper Story thereof to be lined with oak plank one and one-half inches thick to be set up and down, well secured at the bottom and top and lined across the same with three-quarter poplar plank, tongued and grooved and nailed with good six-penny nails not to exceed three inches apart on the whole face of the lining and that the lining be turned around the door and windows to the grates and likewise the fixing of the trap door and some convenient way to be made to descend to the lower room of said jail, the whole to be completed in a good workmanlike manner by the first day of October next."

But in 1832 it was decided that a new jail was needed and the following order is taken from page 204 of the commissioners' court records:

"Ordered by the board that the sheriff of the county do proceed after (after giving three weeks' notice in the *Political Observer*) to sell on the 2d Saturday in June next, at the door of the court house in Greensburgh, the building of a jail for said county of the following description, to wit:

"To be of hewn timbers not less than twelve inches square, the whole of the timbers to be eighteen feet long, a double wall, the corners dovetail notches, the inside walls to extend and notch on the outside walls, a space between the walls of six inches to be filled with wide rocks set on edge, the under floor to be the same as the wall with stone between, the logs crossing each other, the foundation or joist course of the floor and the bottom rounds of the outside walls to be of white oak, the timber of the balance of the walls of good, sound wood such as beach, sugar, etc., two windows in the lower story one on the west and the other on the east side of the house, opposite each other of the following description, six inches in height and four feet wide to be filled with grates of iron one inch square, three inches apart, to stand up and down and to pass through a bar of iron half an inch thick and three inches wide to cross the grate in the center, the bar to extend in the timbers two inches, a plate of rolled iron half an inch thick and to extend in the walls a proper distance, the rolled iron to cover and be well spiked on the jams around the windows, the logs of the walls to be notched close and the inside walls to be laid in lime mortar. The second floor to be of one tier of logs hewn twelve inches in thickness, the edges hewn square. The second story to be in like manner of the first, with a tier of joists one foot thick, laid close, resting on the inside wall, and butting against the outside wall to be hewn to a thickness of twelve inches, the edges squared and one tier crossing them in the same manner to extend out for the room to stand on—and window in the upper story similar as in the lower story—one door of common size

to be cut in the end well on the north side, in the upper story a door frame to be made as wide as the thickness of the walls and well fastened in both walls, the frame to be of white oak four inches thick and to be lined on the inside on the walls, and the frame well spiked to the walls with sufficient iron spikes, not less than eight inches long. The shutter to be two and a half feet wide and six feet high, to be made of two-inch oak plank, made double, well spiked together with strong iron spikes, a strong lock with double bolts to be well imbedded in the door with a sufficient key—both sides of the door to be entirely lined with strong sheet iron nailed on with one nail to every three inches, a sheet of hammered iron, half an inch thick, twelve inches long and eight inches wide to be set in the frame with strong spikes to receive the bolt and to be bent so as to cover the inside of the frame. A substantial stairway to be erected on the outside of the jail to reach the door with a good platform, the timber of white oak; the building to be well covered with shingles, the gables weatherboarded, the eaves boxed and plain cornice, the corners of the house to be neatly turned down, a hatchway to be made in the center of the second floor two feet and a half square with a sufficient shutter lock and key. The doors to be hung with strong wrought iron hinges. The whole of the work to be completed in a strong workmanlike manner. Stories to be seven and one-half feet high in the clear inside. The building to stand on a stone foundation of one foot underground and six inches above the surface of the earth three feet thick, to be of good stone, laid in a workmanlike manner. The grates in the windows to be set in a frame in the center of walls to be made strong and rabited in the logs two inches, the inside of the frame to be lined with iron half an inch thick, well spiked on. And the logs where they are cut to make the windows to be lined with rolled iron half an inch thick, well spiked on.

“The whole to be completed by the fourth Monday in October next. The payments to be made when the work is completed by orders drawn on the treasury of the county. One bid reserved for the use of the county. We undertake to give bond and security to the acceptance of the sheriff for the faithful performance of the work.

“And it is further ordered that the sheriff, at the time and place aforesaid, sell the old jail on a credit until the first of January next, for the best price he can obtain for the same, one bid reserved for the use of the county—bond and security required.

“And it is further ordered that George Q. McCoy be appointed to

inspect the work of the new jail as it progresses, who will report the same to this board."

The report of the day's session is signed by Seth Lowe, George W. Hopkins and Edward Tanner, commissioners.

On June 15, 1859, the board of commissioners passed a motion to remove the county jail from the corner of the court house square and ordered the sheriff and auditor of the county to purchase a suitable site, and to remove all material from the old to the new site. A site on the north side of West Main street, a half block from the public square, was selected and the old jail was removed in September, 1859. Edwin May was engaged, at the price of two hundred and fifty dollars, as the architect and superintendent of construction. Bids were received for the construction of the building on September 30, 1859, and the contract awarded to Henry H. Talbott and Richard B. Thompson. The contract price of the building and the date of its acceptance by the board could not be ascertained.

This building was in continuous use as the county jail until 1880. On March 10, of that year, the commissioners made it a matter of record in the minutes of their court that they had "visited the jails of Shelbyville and Columbus, with the view of better determining plans for erecting a jail in this county." On April 13, 1880, the commissioners, S. H. Logan, Wren Grayson and Henry W. Badeker, accepted the plans and specification for a new jail submitted by Edward Carlisle, an architect. At a special session on May 20, 1880, bids for its construction were examined and the contract awarded to Rosebrough & Company, of Greensburg, for eleven thousand three hundred and fifty dollars and the old jail was sold to Richard J. Braden, the highest bidder, for three hundred and fifty dollars cash. However, on the next morning, May 21, Rosebrough & Company refused to accept the contract and the work was let to the next best and lowest bidder, the Greensburg Limestone Company, of Greensburg, for twelve thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars. The new building was to be built on the site of the old one and was to be completed by October 1, following. This building is still in use as the county jail.

## CHAPTER IV.

### COUNTY OFFICERS.

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#### COMMISSIONERS.

Four distinct boards of county commissioners and two boards of justices have had charge of the affairs of Decatur county since its organization. The first board of commissioners held office from 1822 to 1824. It was then succeeded by a board of justices, composed of two justices of the peace from each township. This board held its last meeting on July 4, 1831. A board of three county commissioners then had charge of affairs until 1835, in which year a board of eighteen justices was created. The latter board held sway until June 7, 1847, in spite of the fact that the Legislature, in 1842, had dissolved such boards in Indiana. The Decatur county board was dissolved by a special act of Legislature, January 14, 1847. A board of three commissioners then took office and when the new constitution was adopted, in 1852 this arrangement was continued. The three commissioners held full sway until 1899, in which year the legislative act creating county councils restricted their powers to a limited extent.

The first board of county commissioners met on May 14, 1822, at the home of Thomas Hendricks, in Greensburg, and were sworn in by H. H. Talbott, clerk of the county, through appointment by Governor Jennings. This board was composed of Williams Harbord, William Parks and Seth Lowe. The first action of this board was to divide the county into three township, Fugit, Washington and Adams. The first day of June was then fixed for holding township elections. Superintendents of the school sections were then named as follow: Thomas Thorp, James McLain, Thomas Hendricks, Nathaniel Robins and Paul Brown. Enoch McCarty was appointed tax lister and John Hopkins, treasurer.

When the three original townships were laid off, Fugit township had the same boundaries as at present; save that a strip one and one-half miles wide and four miles long has since been stricken off and attached to Clinton. Adams township contained all its present territory, and, in addition, a strip



two miles wide and four miles long, that has since been added to Clay, and all of Clinton except the Fugit strip, above mentioned. The remainder of the county lay in Washington township.

Even in that early day, the high cost of living was sufficiently assertive to demand attention. The board accordingly fixed the following prices that might be charged by tavern keepers: Rum and wine, fifty cents a half pint; whisky, twenty-five cents a pint; French brandy, fifty cents a half pint; meals, twenty-five cents, and a night's lodging, twenty-five cents.

#### THE BOARD OF JUSTICES.

The first board of justices met on September 6, 1824. There were eight members of this board, there then being four townships in the county. The board was composed of the following justices of the peace: Robert Church, George W. Hopkins, James Caldwell, Zachariah Garton, Griffie Griffiths, Dillard Drake, Edward Turner and James Donnell. Other members of this board, before it passed out of existence in 1831, were Milton N. Williams, John McCarty, Samuel Bryan, Dan Bell, Robert Church, Wesley White, J. S. Forsythe, Davis Jewitt, Thomas Hamilton, G. W. Hopkins, W. E. Crawford, William Fowler, James Saunders, Alex M. Elliott, William Switzer, J. K. Rankin, Benjamin Jones, Ebenezer Douglas, T. C. Pemberton and Thomas Horton.

This board was followed by a second group of county commissioners composed of Seth Lowe, a member of the first board, George W. Hopkins and Edward Tanner. Thomas E. Pemberton later filled a vacancy on this board. The most important matter to receive the attention of these early county officials was the location of highways, and many pages are given in the records of their early meetings to such business. This board held its last meeting on January 5, 1835, and was followed by a board of eighteen justices, there then being nine townships in the county.

The second board of justices met on March 2, 1835, it being composed of the following: Zachariah Garton, Ezra Lathrop, James Howard, R. M. Jamison, Thomas Powers, John Hazelrigg, Theophilus Lee, Samuel Williams, James Johnston, David Jewitt, Nathaniel Robins, W. E. Crawford, J. G. Kindall, John Scriptor, John Plymate, Enoch James, Dan Barker and James Lewis. The only new members upon this board in the next twelve years were Henry Critzer, Robert Kennedy, Dan Barker and Ebenezer Douglas.

The county again returning to the board of three commissioners in

1847, the following commissioners were elected: Henry S. Burk, Tom Powers and Seth Lowe, the latter of whom had twice previously been a member of this body. New members elected in 1850, were Smith Reilly and Barton H. Harney. This board passed out of existence in 1853, following the adoption of the new constitution. Commissioners were then elected as follows: Caleb Stark, Andrew McCoy and William Magress. Since that time the board of commissioners has managed the business affairs of Decatur county. The present county commissioners are Charles W. Worland, William H. Logan and John W. Tremain.

SHERIFF.

The office of sheriff has been an elective one from the beginning of the state and was so provided for by the constitution of 1816. The first sheriff, William Ross, was appointed by the governor when the county was formed, to take charge of the first election. He served only from March until August, 1822. Doddridge Alley was the first elected sheriff. He was followed by John Parks, who was elected in 1826 and again in 1828. When Parks had collected the taxes for the latter year, he bought a large drove of horses and started with them for Lynchburg, Virginia. He was never heard of afterward. Abraham Hendricks was appointed to serve out his unexpired term.

The other incumbents of this office have been: John Thomson, 1829-33; James Morgan, 1833-37; Wyatt R. Henderson, 1837-41; Abraham Hendricks, 1841-45; Michael Swope, 1845-49; John Imlay, 1849-52 (died in office); John D. Wilson, 1852-53; Joseph V. Bemusdaffer, 1853-57; Edward A. Jocelyn, 1857-61; Philip Mowrer, 1861-65; Charles Sherman, 1865-67; Charles Woodward, 1867-69; Henry Reddington (died before taking office); Charles Wooward, 1868-70 (by appointment), Giles E. White, 1870-74; James Fiscus, 1874-76; John A. Meek, 1876-78; Andrew J. Smith, 1878-80; John W. Stout, 1880-84; Merrit C. Welsh, 1884-88; George S. Dickey, 1888-92; Taylor F. Meek, 1892-96; William T. Stott, 1896-1900; Jeff C. Davis, 1900-04; Jacob Biddinger, 1904-08; S. N. Patterson, 1908-12; John W. DeMoss, 1912.

TREASURER.

General Foley, the first holder of the office, had two opponents at the election, James Johnson, an independent Whig, and John Thompson, the

regular nominee. Although Foley won the first election in a walk, he was defeated, when he asked for re-election, by Captain James Saunders. Saunders served one term and declined a renomination. One of the songs of his campaign was:

“Get out of the way, ye geese and ganders,  
Folks can’t come it ’gainst Old Jim Saunders.”

From the time the county was organized until 1841, the county treasurer was appointed by the county commissioners, or the board of justices, for one year. Since the office was made elective, it has been filled by the following: James B. Foley, 1841; James Saunders, 1844; Abraham Hendricks, 1847-50-53-55; Robert Cones, 1856-58; James Morgan, 1860-62; Thomas B. Perry, 1864; William L. Miller, 1866-68; Benjamin F. Henry, 1870; Conway O. Lanham, 1872; Charles Zoller, 1874; Henry C. Stockman, 1876-78; Angus M. McCoy, 1880-82; William D. Dailey, 1884-86; John W. Nation, 1888-90; John P. Thompson, 1892-94; Dyar C. Elder, 1896; George P. Shoemaker, 1898-02; George W. Lanham, 1902-06; Oscar B. Trimble, 1906-10; I. L. Doles, 1910-12; Albert Boling, 1912-16.

#### RECORDER, CLERK AND AUDITOR.

The recorder's office was filled by the county clerk for several years, the clerk also acting as county auditor. Henry H. Talbott performed the triple duties of clerk, auditor and recorder until 1841, in which year the office of auditor was created by the Legislature, after which he continued to act as clerk and recorder until 1859.

Successors to him as county clerk have been elected in the following order: James Gavin, 1863; Ira G. Grover, 1867; John M. Stevens, 1875; Evander F. Dyer, 1879; John G. Garrison, 1883; Jesse M. Thompson, 1887; Alfred Gaines, 1891; Marine D. Tackett, 1899; M. C. Jenkins, 1903; J. W. Rhodes, 1911, and George W. Fraley, 1915.

Putnam Ewing followed Talbott as recorder in 1859 and since that time the office has been filled by the officers whose names follow: James R. Cox, 1863; William B. Harvey, 1867; Edward Kessing, 1875; James E. Mendenhall, 1879; Rufus P. Hamilton, 1885; Aaron Parker, 1895; Marsh Thomas, 1903; Newton Paramore, 1911 (died in office), and James A. Meek, 1912.

County auditors have been elected as follows: Andrew Dyer, 1841; Joseph Remusdaffer, 1855; William H. Reed, 1859; John D. Spillman,

1863; Frank M. Weadon, 1871; John L. Dobyns, 1875; James Kennedy, 1882; John J. Puttman, 1890; Coleman T. Pleak, 1894; Frank E. Ryan, 1902; Linton W. Sands, 1910, and John C. Barbe, 1914.

Andrew Dyer, the first county auditor, was re-elected three times and held the office for a period of fourteen years and three months. The records do not disclose the reason of this seeming irregularity. Dyer was defeated for a fifth term by Remusdaffer. Of the first eight men who held the office of county auditor, none was a native of Decatur county. Dyer came from Tennessee, Remusdaffer and Weadon from Virginia, Spillman and Dobyns from Kentucky, Reed from Franklin county, Kennedy from Union county and Puttman from Ripley county.

#### STATE SENATORS.

Decatur county has been represented in the state Senate since 1825, on which year it was served by James Gregory, who represented seven other counties. It had no senator of its own until 1836, by which time it had so increased in population that it was given separate representation in the upper house of the Legislature. This continued until 1869, when, in order to maintain an equitable representation in the Senate, the county was again thrown into a joint-senatorial district. Decatur county has had the following representation in the state Senate:

1825-6—James Gregory, joint senator, Hamilton, Marion, Madison, Henry, Shelby, Decatur, Rush and Johnson counties.

1826-7-8—James Gregory, joint senator, Decatur, Shelby, Johnson and Morgan counties.

1829—James Gregory, joint senator, Decatur, Shelby and Morgan counties.

1830—James Gregory, joint senator, Decatur, Shelby and Johnson counties.

1831-2-3—Thomas Hendricks, joint senator, Shelby and Decatur counties.

1834-5—William Fowler, joint senator, Shelby and Decatur counties.

1836—William Fowler, senator, Decatur county.

1837-45—James Morgan, senator, Decatur county.

1846-8—Joseph Robinson, senator, Decatur county.

1849-50—James Morgan, senator, Decatur county.

1851—Robert H. Crawford, senator, Decatur county.

1853-5—W. J. Robinson, senator, Decatur county.



- 1857—John F. Stevens, senator, Decatur county.  
 \*†1858-59—J. F. Stevens, senator, Decatur county.  
 \*†1861—Richard Robins, senator, Decatur county.  
 1863—Joseph Pleak, senator, Decatur county.  
 \*†1865—Dan R. Van Buskirk, senator, Decatur county.  
 1867—Will Cumback, senator, Decatur county.  
 \*†1869—William J. Robinson, joint senator, Rush and Decatur counties.  
 1871—William J. Robinson, joint senator, Rush and Decatur counties.  
 \*†1872-5—George B. Sleeth, joint senator, Rush and Decatur counties.  
 \*†1877-9—William A. Moore, joint senator, Rush and Decatur counties.  
 \*†1881—Francis M. Howard, joint senator, Decatur and Shelby counties.  
 1883—Francis M. Howard, joint senator, Decatur and Shelby counties.  
 \*†1885—Francis M. Howard, joint senator, Decatur and Shelby counties.  
 1887—Francis M. Howard, joint senator, Decatur and Shelby counties.  
 1889—S. J. Carpenter, joint senator, Decatur and Shelby counties.  
 1891—Cortez Ewing, joint senator, Decatur and Shelby counties.  
 1893-5—Albert E. Wray, joint senator, Decatur and Shelby counties.  
 1897—Everett F. Stroup, joint senator, Decatur and Shelby counties.  
 1899-1901—W. W. Lambert, joint senator, Bartholomew and Decatur counties.  
 1903-5—M. E. Newhouse, joint senator, Bartholomew and Decatur counties.  
 1907-9—William E. Springer, joint senator, Bartholomew and Decatur counties.  
 1911-13—Emanuel Trautman, joint senator, Bartholomew and Decatur counties.  
 1915—E. A. Norman, joint senator, Bartholomew and Decatur counties.  
 \*Special session.  
 †Regular session.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVES.

Being organized by the Session Laws of 1821, Decatur county first secured representation in the House of Representatives of the state Legislature in its eighth session, 1823. It has since been served by representatives, by joint representatives and by both. The representation of the county in the lower house has been as follows:

1823-5—Thomas Hendricks, joint representative, Rush, Decatur, Shelby and Henry counties.

1825-6—Thomas R. Stanford, joint representative, Rush, Henry, Decatur and Shelby counties.

1826—Doddridge Ally, representative, Decatur county.

1827-30—Thomas Hendricks, representative, Decatur county.

1831—Doddridge Ally, representative, Decatur county.

1832-3—William Fowler, representative, Decatur county.

1834-5—Samuel Bryan, representative, Decatur county.

1836-7—James Elder, representative, Decatur county.

1838—Abram Hendricks, representative, Decatur county.

1839—Martin Jamison, representative, Decatur county.

1840—James Blair, representative, Decatur county.

1841—James Saunders, representative, Decatur county.

1842-3—James Montague, representative, Decatur county.

1844—Ralph Robinson, representative, Decatur county.

1845—William J. Robinson, representative, Decatur county.

1846—P. Hamilton, representative, Decatur county.

1847—Philander Hamilton, representative, Decatur county.

1848—James Morgan, representative, Decatur county.

1849—William J. Robinson, representative, Decatur county.

1850—Robert H. Crawford, representative, Decatur county.

1851—John Stevens, representative, Decatur county.

1853—Alex. L. Underwood, representative, Decatur county.

1855—Samuel A. Bonner, representative, Decatur county.

1857—Davis Batterton, representative, Decatur county.

\*†1858-59—William J. Robinson, representative, Decatur county.

\*†1861—Ira C. Grover, representative, Decatur county.

1863—Daniel Van Buskirk, representative, Decatur county.

\*†1865—William H. Bonner, representative, Decatur county.

1867—William A. Moore, representative, Decatur county.

\*†1869—Oliver P. Gilham, representative; David M. Stewart, joint representative; Decatur and Rush counties.

1871—William T. Strickland, representative; Benjamin T. Hill, joint representative; Decatur and Rush counties.

\*1872-73—George Goudie, representative; John D. Miller, joint representative; Decatur and Rush counties.

\*†1875—John W. Shaw, representative; Barker Brown, joint representative; Ripley, Rush and Decatur counties.

\*†1877—Zachariah T. Riley, representative; Arch M. Kennedy, joint representative; Ripley, Rush and Decatur counties.

\*†1879—John S. Donnell, representative; Chester E. Faulkner, joint representative; Ripley, Rush and Decatur counties.

\*†1881—James B. Robinson, representative, Decatur county.

1883—Oscar L. Pulse, representative, Decatur county.

\*†1885—Erastus L. Floyd, representative, Decatur county.

1887—William R. Pleak, representative, Decatur county.

1889—James B. Robinson, representative, Decatur county.

1891—Jacob L. Doll, representative, Decatur county.

1893-5—Marshal Newhouse, representative, Decatur county.

1897—William H. Goddard, representative, Decatur county.

1899—John W. Holcomb, representative, Decatur county.

1901—Noah T. Rogers, representative, Decatur county.

1903—Henry B. Sherman, representative, Decatur county.

1905-7—Webb Woodfill, representative, Decatur county.

1909—Jethro C. Meek, representative, Decatur county.

1911—S. B. Eward, representative, Decatur county.

1913-15—W. J. Kincaid, representative, Decatur county.

\*Special session.

†Regular session.

## CHAPTER V.

### TOWNSHIPS AND TOWNS OF DECATUR COUNTY.

The townships of Decatur county were organized by the county board in the following order: Washington, May 14, 1822; Fugit, May 14, 1822; Adams, May 14, 1822; Sand Creek, May 2, 1825; Clinton, July 6, 1829; Marion, May 3, 1831; Jackson, in March 1834; Clay, March 3, 1836; Salt Creek, September 6, 1836.

#### ADAMS TOWNSHIP.

On May 14, 1822, the county commissioners established Adams township with the following limits: Beginning at the county line on the township line dividing townships 10 and 11, range 8, thence east with the township line to the line dividing sections 32 and 33, range 9, township 11; thence north to the southwest corner of section 21 in the town and range aforesaid; thence east to the southwest corner of section 23, range 9, township 11; thence north with the section line to the southwest corner of section 14, thence east to the southwest corner of section 17, range 10, township 11; thence north with the section line to the county line; thence west with the county line to the northwest corner of said county; thence south with the county line to the place of beginning.

This was one of the three original townships laid out in the county, and has been cut down three different times: First, by the formation of Clay township in 1825, sections 27, 26, 25, 30, 34, 35, 36 and 31, township 11, range 8, being cut off to give Clay its present size; second, when Clinton township was formed, Adams suffering the loss of fourteen whole sections and five half-sections, township 11, range 9, as follow: 23, 24, 14, 13, 18, 11, 12, 7, 2, 1, 6, 35, 31 and the half sections, 34, 3, 10, 15 and 22; third, two sections, 19 and 20, township 11, range 9, were added to Washington township. This left the limits of Adams rather ill defined and after the last cut was made from this township, is found the following extract in the minutes of the commissioners' records: Adams township limits (Vol. 1, page 135): "On May 2, 1825, the limits of Adams township were redefined by the board of justices as follows: Beginning at the county line on the



range line dividing ranges 9 and 10; thence south five miles to the southeast corner of section 24, range 9, township 11; thence west to the county line; thence with the county line to the place of beginning."

#### THE SQUATTER.

Prior to 1818 a small portion of southeastern Indiana, only, had been purchased from the Indians and partially settled. In that year a treaty was concluded with various tribes of Indians, by which most of the land in the interior of the state, south of the Wabash river and not previously purchased, was deeded to the United States. Immediately, emigrants began to push their way into the "New Purchase," as it was called. The lands were not yet surveyed nor ready for sale; still, choice selections could be made preparatory to purchase when the land should be offered for sale—the "squatter," in the meantime, clearing a small piece of ground in some eligible situation, where he hoped soon to buy. This small tract, with the game, which was abundant, produced sufficient to satisfy his wants.

#### THE FIRST SETTLER.

The first white man to take up his abode in Adams township is believed to have been John Gullion. He came from Switzerland county, and was an old Revolutionary soldier—said to have been perfectly irrepressible and uncontrollable in battle. He had been shot through the cheek and mouth in some of the battles of that war, and was greatly disfigured. It is believed he visited the country above Big Flatrock in the fall of 1818, building a "shanty" and, perhaps, clearing some ground in the bottom near where the Michigan road crosses that stream. In the spring of 1819 he moved his family and took up his permanent residence. In the same spring, Abraham Heaton settled about one mile further up that stream. He cleared land and raised a crop of corn in the bottom just below the mouth of Little Flatrock, in what in later years has been known as the Manley Kimble bottom.

In November, 1819, Edward Tannor arrived and settled on the school section near where Nelson Jewett now lives, building a shanty and covering it with bark taken from an abandoned Indian shanty near by. In the spring of 1820, Heaton was joined by Peter Zeigler and Philip Isley, who raised a crop of corn in the same bottom, buying corn of Heaton of the previous year's raising, at one dollar in silver per bushel.

The Miami tribe of Indians were still in the country. The new settlers

hunted with them, and lived on terms of mutual friendship. In the fall of 1820, the land, having been surveyed, was offered for sale at Brookville. Abraham Heaton bought one hundred and sixty acres where he had located. Peter Zeigler bought one hundred and sixty acres, which was soon afterward sold to Martin Adkins, and is now owned by Joseph D. Pleak. He also bought one hundred and sixty acres just west of the present site of St. Omer, on which he lived until within a few years. Jonathan McCarty bought one hundred and sixty acres where the Michigan road crosses Big Flatrock; J. M. Robison, two hundred and forty acres immediately south of McCarty's, and Mr. Sanford, one hundred and sixty acres east of the same. Jonathan Paul entered a half section or more at the falls of Mill creek, near to the present St. Paul, and was one of the first, if not the very first, to erect a mill in the county. Col. W. W. Pearce entered one hundred and sixty acres one mile northwest of St. Omer, on the Michigan road, and William Peterson, one hundred and sixty acres just east of the present site of St. Omer. John Shelhorn entered lands between Big and Little Flatrock, and erected a mill on the latter stream about the time, or soon after, that Paul built on Mill creek. Of course, these were small affairs compared with modern mills. They were devoted mostly to grinding corn, but were provided with bolts which were turned by hand and each customer had to turn his own grist.

#### SHATTERED HOPES.

Shelhorn also, in 1821, laid off a town on the bluff immediately above the confluence of Big and Little Flatrock, called Rockville, which was the first town laid off in the county. The county line not yet having been established nor the county seat located, it was hoped to make it a county seat. The town plat is recorded at Brookville, and the only evidence of its existence in our records is in the records of deeds to certain lots—Main street and Broadway being given as part of the boundary. The site was a beautiful one for a town, but, failing to be made a county seat, all further effort to build up a town was abandoned.

David Jewett entered a considerable tract of land just east of Shelhorn, on Little Flatrock. Daniel Stoggsdill arrived either in the fall of 1820, or very early in 1821, and was the first minister of the gospel in this section of the country. His home was in the corner of Washington township, yet the church which he founded, and to which for a long time he ministered, was in Adams, with whose people he would be more properly classed than

anywhere else. The same may be said of Richard Guthrie, who settled in 1821, in the corner of Clay, just below the present town of Adams. Solomon Turpin entered one hundred and sixty acres of land on Clifty, where the Michigan road crosses that stream, and Jonas Long, it is believed, the same year entered eighty acres one mile farther west, just east of the present town of Adams. Rev. Joel Clark entered lands in the east part of the township in 1821, where Phillip Martin subsequently lived. He was a Baptist minister and quite an old man at that time. His son, Austin Clark, was a Methodist exhorter and, in connection with Jonathan Tindale, who came at the same time, established the first Methodist society in the township. Archibald Clark, a brother of Austin, settled on Little Flatrock, near the center of the township. Joseph Lee came in the fall of this year and settled on the school section. Enoch McCarty, Hershon Lee, Daniel Howard, and perhaps others, were in the county, but had not at this date, entered lands with a prospect of becoming permanent residents.

Enoch James, a young man who had accompanied a family to which he was related, was the first to procure a marriage license in the township, and, it is believed, in the county. He was married in the spring of 1822.

#### EARLY MAIL FACILITIES.

Jonathan McCarty and Edward Tannor were the first justices of the peace, elected in 1823. The first postoffice was established in 1822, or 1823; W. W. Pierce was postmaster. The mails were carried on horseback from Lawrenceburgh to Indianapolis, once in two weeks, and afterwards weekly. The streams were all unbridged, and in times of high water, which sometimes continued for weeks, the mail carrier had no means of crossing but to swim. A canoe was usually kept at the crossing, and sometimes he would go over in that with the mail bags, swimming the horse by the side of the canoe; but if the canoe happened to be on the other side, or no one could be found to row it, he would plunge boldly in, protecting the mail bags as best he could. Samuel Frazier was for a long time the carrier, a good-natured, lively young fellow, and, let the weather or streams be what they would, he seldom failed to get the mails through on time. He was long remembered by the old settlers on that route.

#### PRIMITIVE CONDITIONS.

This sketch would be imperfect if it did not give some idea of the state of the country and of the difficulties these first settlers had to encounter,

yet no description can give to one who never saw the country in its native wildness, any just conception of what it was. Half the country seemed to be under water, hence settlers mostly selected lands near water courses, where, the lands being more broken, dryer situations could be found. In passing from Flatrock to Clifty, in the spring of the year, and sometimes a good part of the year, water from one to three feet deep would have to be waded for near half the distance, the scene being enlivened by the croaking of innumerable frogs, and occasionally by a deer which went bounding through, or over, the thickets of spice and other underbrush.

Of roads there were none that deserved the name. Wilson's "trace," from Napoleon through by the present site of Greensburg and on to Flatrock, and perhaps farther west; Freel's "trace," which, branching off from the former at the big fallen timber, ran through by the forks of Clifty and on to Connersville; and another from Brookville, through or near the present town of Clarksburg and on to the settlements on Clifty and Flatrock, were the roads followed by settlers. The trees along the route were merely "blazed," and a few brushes cut out. The logs that could be easily removed were taken from the track, and others were frequently crossed by piling chunks on each side which enabled the teams to draw the wagons over.

There were no mills in the country, and meal was made by pounding corn in a mortar. This was made by burning a hole a foot or so deep in a solid sugartree, beech or other log, setting this up on end and erecting over this something exactly like a well sweep, only, in place of rope or chain to attach to a bucket, was a pole with the butt end down, and fitted nicely to the shape of the mortar. A small portion of corn was put in at a time and pounded till sufficiently fine, and the coarse parts removed by a sieve. This process, hard and tedious as it was, was easier for most than going to mill—the most convenient being four miles below Brookville. Colonel Pierce, who was the first to sow wheat in the township, and perhaps in the county, that being in the fall of 1821, was compelled to go to that distance to get it ground—taking two days to go and two to come back.

#### EARLY WEARING APPAREL.

It was some years before a store was established in the township, the nearest being Benson's, where Spring Hill now is, and at Arthur Major's, two or three miles below the present St. Paul. But very little store goods sufficed in that day; all articles of wear were home-made; spinning and weaving were a part of the regular employment of the women of every



household, wool being carded into rolls for spinning by hand, and flax was frequently partly prepared for spinning by the same hands; some, before flax could be raised, substituted nettles, which grew luxuriantly on bottom land to the height of three or four feet; when they had lain sufficiently long to become rotted, they were prepared the same as flax, and made a very good article of linen. Garments were made with but little regard to fashion. The men sometimes wore what was called a hunting-shirt, fringed round the edges with red or blue fringes, and a coonskin cap, with the striped tail hanging down the back—these being the only efforts at style.

The women wore dresses of home-made linsey, or linen striped with indigo or copperas color, to suit the taste, exactly such as can be seen at the present day worn by emigrants from the mountainous regions of Tennessee and North Carolina. Deerskins were, after a home tanning, converted into moccasins. Some of the more well-to-do aspired to shoes (boots were not thought of), but one pair usually lasted a good while, and so careful were the girls of their shoes, that it was the custom, when they went to meeting, to carry their shoes and stockings in their hands, putting them on only when they arrived within a short distance of the meeting-house. Hats were frequently made of buckeye splits, plaited and sewn together, and were quite a stylish article when new, the only draw-back being that after two or three wettings they turned a mouldy, dirty-looking brown color that was anything but handsome.

Wolves, though not very numerous, were still troublesome to those who attempted to keep sheep. Rattlesnakes were abundant, and, though a source of great dread, yet accidents from this source were not frequent. On one occasion about seventy were killed in one day near Paul's mill, where they had crawled out from their den in the rocks. This was considered rather better than an ordinary day for snakes.

Horses were turned out, after work, to range in the forest, as it was impossible to procure food otherwise, the precaution being taken to fasten a bell to the neck in order that they might be easily found in the morning. But, as the season advanced, the malaria from the swamps, coupled with the continued hardship and exposure, began to tell on the settlers, and nearly all were afflicted with chills and fever. Some continued to shake until Christmas, others recovering in a few days or weeks; sometimes they were scarcely well enough to attend the sick, yet very few cases were fatal, whether from the mildness of the malady or the scarcity of doctors, it would be impossible to tell.

## WILD GAME.

One year was noted for a wonderful beech mast. This brought in the pigeons by the millions, squirrels also, and the wild turkeys in vast numbers. It was no uncommon thing to see the whole heavens covered for hours at a time, like a cloud, with pigeons going to the roost in the evening or returning in the morning. Squirrels were so thick as to, in some instances, destroy whole fields of corn in the fall; the trees left standing gave them shelter, so that they ravaged all parts of the field alike. Squirrel hunts were sometimes made to try to exterminate them, and it was not uncommon for one man to kill one hundred and fifty in a day. Turkeys, too, were so abundant that frequently only the breast was saved to dry, the balance of the carcass, though fat and fine, being thrown away. Hogs multiplied rapidly and, feed being abundant in the woods, they soon sought their living there altogether, and became as wild as the deer. Almost everyone had wild hogs in the woods and those who had not, bought a real or pretended claim from someone else; these claims never ran out or became worthless while the hogs lasted, there being no first mortgages to come in, as in later times, to swallow up all minor interests. In the fall or beginning of winter it was the custom to go to the woods, strike a camp, and hunt and kill wild hogs till enough were secured for the year's supply. The hogs, being almost wholly unmarked, few could tell their own from others, nor did they seem at all particular, the fact that one had a claim being thought sufficient to justify him in taking the first he came to.

## DISTILLERIES.

The temperance reformation had not yet commenced and all classes used whiskey as a regular beverage. To supply this want, whiskey being thought indispensable, still-houses were very early erected, and there have been as many as six in a township, though not all in operation at one time. They have long since disappeared, yet their influence probably long survived them.

## PIONEER SCHOOLS.

Amidst all disadvantages, the interests of education, morality and religion were not wholly neglected. Rude school houses were put up by the voluntary aid of contiguous neighbors. A log was usually cut out of the wall on one side and over this greased paper was pasted, this serving for a

window. Under this was the writing-desk—a board laid on pins, driven in the wall; and the seats were split puncheons, without backs. The teachers, sometimes, very well matched the school house, while some would compare very well with those of the present day. People with such rude surroundings sometimes gained a very good practical knowledge of arithmetic, going clear through and doing every sum in a single quarter, a feat that under modern teaching is seldom accomplished under three or four, so little do the surroundings of a scholar have to do with his advancement.

The present officers of Adams township are: Trustee, L. A. Jewett; assessor, Ed Shower; advisory board, William Larrigan, J. S. Townsend and Manford Slifer; road supervisors, Ed Hoffman, T. M. Favor, George Smith and Thomas Teitsort.

#### ST. OMER.

The little village of St. Omer is located in section 2, Adams township, and appeared on the horizon for the first time in 1834, when it was laid out by John Griffin and A. Major. It is on the old Michigan road and was formerly an important trading center of Adams township. Scattered along either side of the famous old thoroughfare, which is the main street of the little village, may be seen quaint old cottages, once the home of happy and contented people. The first building in the town dates from 1830. The Michigan road was once an Indian trail which wound its way through this country, and, from the opening of the "New Purchase" to settlement, the trail became the main road from the southeastern part of the state to the new capital at Indianapolis. With the opening of the Michigan road by government and state aid, in the early part of the thirties, taverns sprang up at intervals throughout its entire length, and these taverns, in many instances, became the centers of hopeful villages. In St. Omer may still be seen a few buildings which were once used as taverns. The Wilder property was once such a tavern.

#### VISIONS OF RAILROADS.

In the early forties, St. Omer began to see visions of a railroad, but the vision was all the people ever saw. The present Big Four was first planned to run through the village, but subsequent surveys showed that it would miss the town by about two miles. Another projected road which was to pass through St. Omer was a line from Greensburg, part of which was actually graded. However, this line never materialized, and since that time the town

has given up hopes of ever having a railroad. This projected road explains the huge cuts and fills which may still be seen along the Michigan road between Greensburg and Shelbyville. The work had even proceeded so far that part of the abutments for the bridge across Flatrock were in place. Thousands of dollars were expended, to say nothing of the time and labor and blasted hopes.

An interesting incident connected with this visionary railroad was a clan feud between the Irish laborers of Shelbyville and those stationed at St. Omer. So bitter became this strife that they took their old flint-lock muskets with them to their work day after day and stacked their arms along the right of way, to be used in case trouble might arise. Several skirmishes actually occurred and some blood was shed, but there were no fatalities.

Few people know that the timber was prepared for the construction of a depot in St. Omer, but such was the case. The depot was to stand on a spot just south of the later residence of Wesley Wilder, but when it was decided to change the route of the railroad, the timbers were hauled to St. Paul and became a part of the residence of Joseph Eck. So much for the railroad history of St. Omer.

#### EDUCATION.

The subscription school furnished all of the education for the youngsters of St. Omer before the adoption of the new Constitution in 1851. When the system of free schools came into operation, in that year, St. Omer was divided between two school districts, one school house being in the village and the other in the woods near where John Leach later lived. This did not prove satisfactory and in 1856 the citizens of the village secured a graded school and placed it in the hands of Franklin Pearce and Samantha Mann, the mother of Dr. E. Jewett. A few weeks after school began, Mr. Pearce was hit on the head with a stick of wood in the hands of one of his pupils, and killed. Whether it was accidental or intentional, is uncertain. The school was one of the best in this section of the state at the time. Latin, German, algebra, music and other higher branches were included in the curriculum. The present school building was erected in 1879.

#### CHURCHES.

There have been three churches in St. Omer, the Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian and United Brethren. The Presbyterian church was destroyed



by fire several years ago and never rebuilt, tradition saying that the church was burned as the result of some courageous preacher pointing out in too plain a manner the future destiny of a certain young man whose agricultural efforts were devoted to the sowing of the wrong kind of oats. The history of the other churches is given elsewhere in this volume.

St. Omer has never boasted of a large population and today can scarcely claim over half a hundred. There were never any factories of any importance in the village, but from the earliest history of its career there were artisans capable of supplying most of the local wants. Plows, wagons, saddles and harness, hats, beds and many other articles have been made here in a small way. Coopers, butchers, blacksmiths, wood-workers, carpenters, and even tailors, have pursued their trade here in the past. At one time there were four general stores, two drug stores, a hotel or two, and the ubiquitous saloon in St. Omer, and all of them appeared to thrive. John F. Harwood opened the first hotel and Harvey Vaupelt established the first store. Today there is not a single store in the village, the proximity of St. Paul, two miles away, having made it impossible for a local merchant to continue in business.

#### A COUNTY-SEAT PROSPECT.

The history of this once prosperous little hamlet cannot be dismissed without mentioning an interesting dream of its former inhabitants. Before the Civil War, St. Omer entertained aspirations of being a county seat. A project, fathered by some politicians, proposed to make a new county out of parts of Decatur, Shelby and Rush counties, with St. Omer as the county seat. However, so much opposition was encountered that the proposal never did anything more than raise the hopes of the guileless people of St. Omer. The promoters of the new county even went so far as to select the site for the new court house, the site being located across the road and west of Smith's garage. The failure of the new-county scheme and the shifting of the railroad, two miles to the west, was the death-knell of St. Omer. Its oldest citizens can still tell of the halcyon days when they fondly imagined great things for the town. They planned for its future with every confidence in the promises of the railroad people, and likewise gave every encouragement to the county-seat proposal—but, alas, it was all in vain.

#### ADAMS.

The village of Adams is situated on the Big Four railroad and also the interurban line. It is only five miles from Greensburg and in the extreme

southern part of the township bearing the same name. The village was laid out by Aaron H. Womack, January 1, 1855, two years after the completion of the railroad through this township. It is located in the center of a rich agricultural district and, although there has been a great falling off in the population of some of the smaller towns since the general influx to the cities began, Adams has continued to grow. Mr. Womack was the first merchant in the village, although William Gouldsbury is credited as being the first settler. Mr. Gouldsbury erected the first residence in the town and also established the first industrial enterprise in the form of a blacksmith shop and wagon works. Around this nucleus soon gathered a prosperous settlement of industrious, intelligent and progressive people.

Adams was incorporated in September, 1877, for school purposes, but the school was taught only one term under corporate management. Confusion and jealousies arising among the officers and citizens, it was determined, by a unanimous vote, to abolish the corporation and return to the management of the township trustee.

The business interests of Adams in 1915 are as follows: Auctioneer, A. F. Eubank; barber, George Baumgartner; blacksmith, J. S. Hichney and I. N. Con, John Inman, Charles Adkins; boarding house, Mrs. Mae Longstreet; contractor, James Inman; elevator, Albert Boling; general merchandise, Arthur Toothman, J. J. Mull, Walter Marshall; implements, L. R. Davis; livery, William Jackson; meat market, A. R. Coy; physician, M. A. Tremain; paper hanger, Ed Shauer; restaurant and confectionery, A. R. Coy; veterinary, Morton Tanner.

Adams has a well organized band of fifteen members, with Justin Guthrie as leader. They were organized in the winter of 1913 and have two thousand dollars invested in instruments. This band has recently purchased new uniforms and renders concerts during the summer months for the entertainment of the townspeople.

Adams is accommodated by the Big Four railroad, with A. R. Coy as agent, and also the electric line, with Arthur Toothman as agent. Grace Jackson is the present postmistress. The town has a population of four hundred people.

#### DOWNEYVILLE.

Downeyville is a small hamlet in Adams township. This village was never platted and, although the name covers considerable space on the county map, there are only four or five houses in the cluster that marks the town limits. The business interests, which consist of a general store, are conducted by J. F. Downey & Sons.

## ROCKVILLE, A PROSPEROUS COUNTY SEAT.

Few of the present generation know that the first town laid out within the present limits of Decatur county was located in Adams township. Shortly after land in the "New Purchase" was offered for sale at Brookville, Abraham Heaton bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 6 of Adams township. In the early part of the following year John Shelhorn entered a tract in the same section and these two men conceived the idea of laying out a town above the confluence of Big and Little Flatrock. The county of Decatur had not yet been organized and no one, of course, knew how much territory the new county might include. Heaton and Shelhorn hoped to induce the authorities to select the site of their proposed town for the county seat and when they laid out their town provided for a public square. On the Franklin county records may still be seen the town of Rockville, which these two enterprising Yankees laid out in the early spring of 1821. The plat was recorded at Brookville, February 19, 1821 (Deed record E, page 76), and shows one hundred and eight lots. The streets were one chain in width and seventy-five links in length. The plat shows the following streets: Main, Broadway, Walnut, Water, Mulberry and Market. While the site was a beautiful one, the proprietors never realized anything from their patriotic efforts to make it a town. During the following year the locating commissioners placed the county seat of the new county at Greensburg and thus blasted any hopes that Heaton and Shelhorn might have entertained for their town. The present town of Downeyville is in the neighborhood of this long-forgotten, prospective county seat of Decatur county.

## ST. PAUL.

The town of St. Paul came into existence at the time the Big Four railroad was built through Decatur county, in 1853. The town is on the line between Decatur and Shelby counties, although the greater part of the town is in Decatur county. Jonathan Paul was the first settler to locate on the present site of St. Paul, entering all of section 33, township 11, range 8, except eighty acres; the patent for this large tract being dated October 20, 1820. The Pauls came from Jefferson county, Indiana, where one of the members of the family had laid out the town of Madison. A sister of Jonathan Paul became the wife of William Hendricks, congressman, United States senator and governor of Indiana.







OLD HOUSE MILL, NEAR GREENSBURG.



OLDEST BUILDING IN ST. PAUL, BUILT BY JOHN P. PAUL ABOUT 1854 AND STILL STANDING.

The original Paul home in Adams township, Decatur county, was a log cabin near the road, at the foot of the present Paul Hill cemetery, at St. Paul. There was a semblance of a village many years before the town was laid out, the hamlet being known as Paultown. The older residents still speak of the place as Paultown, but few of the present generation are aware of the first name.

The first Paul cabin burned a few years after it was erected and another log structure was built on the same spot, which served as a home for the family until the erection of a substantial brick building. The contract for the erection of the brick house was let to Daniel French, who made the brick near where the house was built. The evidence of this worthy contractor's work still stands in St. Paul and bids fair to stand for many years yet to come. Shortly after getting his first cabin erected, Paul established a rude mill on Mill creek, a short distance above where the later Paul mill stood. This first mill—and it was probably the first mill in the county—was not much larger than a smoke-house, but it served the purpose for which it was built. He ground only corn and this was done in an old-fashioned hand "hopper."

A few years after Jonathan Paul put his first mill into operation, his son, John Paul, built another mill a short distance below the old mill and operated it by water-power. Sometime later John Paul saw that there was an excellent water-power site at the confluence of Mill creek and Flatrock and proceeded to build a woolen-mill on the west side of Mill creek near where it empties into Flatrock. He built a dam across Mill creek and the race which he constructed may still be seen. John Paul also had a saw-mill near the same place, deriving his power for its operation from Flatrock. The two mills were close together and it was his original intention to utilize the same race for both mills, but such a plan was found impracticable. These two mills gave employment to several men and were the means of attracting a number of families to the little hamlet of Paultown, or "Bull Town," as it was frequently called. In the spring of 1847 the two mills were swept away by a flood and Paul also saw his dam across Flatrock disappear at the same time.

#### RAILROAD BOOMS THE TOWN.

From 1847 to 1854 was a period of depression in the once thriving village, but with the building of the railroad through the place in the latter year, things began to look more auspicious. Paul rebuilt his mill, and, with the assistance of his son-in-law, Erastus M. Floyd, laid out the town into

lots; giving it at the same time, the name of St. Paul. From that time forward the town had prospered and today is one of the best trading centers in the county. By 1859 the town had increased in population until that year saw the erection of thirty buildings. According to a local account, there were the following enterprises in St. Paul in 1859: Merchants—Caldwell & Dorsey, Drummond & Buell, Ridlin & Company, John DeArmond and Benjamin Jenkins; steam and water mills—George Wooden; cabinet shop—Hann & Haymond; two hotels; woolen factory—John Paul, and a number of other industries.

A word should be said regarding the old Paul mill, which no longer greets the eye of the fisherman as he wanders along Mill creek in search of chubs and slickjacks. Amateur photographers no longer compete in efforts to get the best pictures of the building, with its quaint overshot wheel. The old mill was razed in 1909 and nothing now remains of an industry which was once a boom to the settlers who flocked from far and near to take their turns in getting their grist ground. Never again will the curious gather to watch the water, freed from the race by the lifting of the old water gate, rush down over the wheel and fill the buckets. The hum of the old French burrs is silenced forever; no more will the youth of the village, stripped to the skin, stand under the falls of the race overflow; no more will boys borrow the old miller's spade, with which to dig worms when fishing in the old mill race; no more will they parch corn on the top of the old box-stove, fired with cobs, and listen to the miller's stories of pioneer days.

#### SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.

The first school house in St. Paul stood on the site of the store now owned by the Benning Brothers, and the second one was located where Walter Hungerford's residence now stands. School was also held for a time in the second story of Oddfellow hall, now the carriage and buggy factory of Jacob Johannes. During the early seventies a school was maintained in both the Methodist and Catholic churches. After leaving Oddfellow hall, the public school was stationed in the building now owned by Henry Neidigh, which was also used for religious purposes at the same time. In 1870 the school district built a school house about one hundred feet back of where the present school building now stands. This building was used until it was destroyed by fire in 1901, and, until the completion of the present building in the following year, the Floyd building was used for school purposes.



The first church building dates from 1857 when the different denominations of the town erected what they called a union church. Each denomination interested in the erection of this edifice was to be allowed to use it at regular intervals, but it seems that, owing to the predominance of the Lutherans, it was commonly known as the Lutheran church. However, other denominations used it for services for a few years. Just when the Lutherans gained complete control of the building is not known; but it is certain that it was unused several years previous to the time the Christian church got possession of it in 1874. The Christians seemed to have rented it until 1892 when they purchased it and made many extensive improvements in it. The Methodists built about 1858 and the Catholics in the same year. The first Methodist church burned in 1892 and in the same year the present church was erected. The Catholics are still using the church they built in 1858.

#### INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE.

The stone industry in St. Paul was started in the 'fifties by John Scanlan, who established a stone quarry south of town, which gave employment to a large number of men. Later, William Lowe established a quarry at the junction of Mill creek and Flatrock, on the site of the old woolen-mill. Later H. C. Adams opened a quarry opposite the Lowe quarry on Flatrock. In 1913 P. J. McAuliffe, who had leased the Lowe quarry, some years previously, closed the quarry as a result of the extensive damages suffered by the March flood of that year. In 1907 Greely Brothers built a large stone crusher on Flatrock east of town. This is one of the largest concerns of its kind in Indiana and produces from fifteen to twenty car loads of crushed stone daily. In addition to crushed stone for road material, a large amount of what is locally known as "dimension" stone is quarried. This stone ranks second in the state to Bedford stone and is shipped for building purposes all over the United States. It was used in the construction of the custom house at Cincinnati and in the state house at Indianapolis. The only other industry of any importance now in St. Paul is the buggy factory of Jacob Johannes. This was established by the present proprietor in 1878 and has been in continuous operation since that year. Formerly carriages were manufactured as well as buggies, but at the present time only buggies are made. The factory has an annual capacity of one hundred buggies and on an average of seventy-five are now made each year. Only first-class vehicles are turned out and the product finds a ready sale, despite the heavy inroads which the automobile has made in the vehicle industry. In addition



to the manufacture of buggies, Mr. Johannes does a large amount of repair work.

The first merchant in St. Paul was a man by the name of Hungate, who sold a little of everything, as was the custom in those days. The business enterprises of the town change from year to year, and scarcely a year passes that there is not some change in firms. New enterprises are being added from year to year, and it is impossible to predict what a new year will bring forth.

A survey of the business and professional interests of St. Paul in the summer of 1915 discloses the following: Automobiles, St. Paul Hardware Company; bakery, St. Paul Baking Company; barbers, Jacob Wise, William Favors, Carl Brooks; blacksmiths, Merritt Copeland, Manlief & McAuliffe; buggy factory, Jacob Johannes; building and loan association, George W. Bolling, secretary; bank, St. Paul Banking Co., Orlando Hungerford, owner; cement products, Joseph Eck; carpenters, George W. Swartz, Albert Haymond, Miller Brothers; dentist, Leslie Rivers; drugs, Dr. D. J. Ballard, H. H. Gladish; elevator, William Nading; feed and milling products, W. T. Bolling; flowers, Mrs. H. W. Ballard; furniture, Charles H. Wiley; general stores, R. D. Templeton, L. A. Jewett & Son, A. B. Mulroy; groceries, Benning Brothers, John B. McKee, James Embry; harness, Garrett & Conrad; hardware, Bolling & Thompson, I. W. Martin; hotel, Diltz & Adams; ice dealer, F. M. Favors; ice cream parlor, Mrs. H. H. Gladish; insurance, Mrs. John Harwood, George W. Bolling; interurban agent, Joseph Miller; implements, W. W. Townhend; jeweler, C. F. Kappes; livery, Ottis Thompson; lumber and building supplies, John Simpson & Son; meat market, Carl G. Wolfe; millinery, Mrs. B. F. Mason; moving pictures, Howard & Pleak; newspaper, *St. Paul Telegram*, O. C. Pearce, editor; notions, B. F. Mason; painter and paper hanger, Amos Dodds, Orla Wadkins, Pearce & McAuliffe; plumber, Garrett & Conrad; physicians, G. J. Martz, F. M. Howard, Earl Jewett, D. J. Ballard, William R. Turner; pool rooms, Charles Neal, Wallace McCain, Bush Brothers; rural mail carriers, Clarence Ketchum, Orla Guess, Denzel Doggett; restaurant, Joseph Miller; stock buyer, Carl G. Wolfe; saloons, George Hess, Jasper Linville (both on the Shelby county side); Standard Oil Company agent, Charles Ross; tinner, George Scheiderman; undertaking, Charles H. Wiley; veterinarian, W. R. Chrisler.

## DISASTROUS FIRES IN ST. PAUL.

There was probably more excitement in St. Paul during the summer of 1912 than any time since the Civil War. Beginning on December 22, 1911, there were a series of seven fires, in number, which wrought up the inhabitants of the little town to a high pitch of excitement, and if the guilty parties, suspected of being the cause of the fires, had been caught after the seventh fire, they might have expected severe treatment at the hands of the indignant citizens. The first fire took the elevator; the second, John West's residence; the third, the Big Four depot; the fourth, February 5, 1912, the drug and general store of Daniel Hazelrigg, as well as the postoffice, which was in his building. Hazelrigg's loss was about three thousand dollars, most of which was covered by insurance. The most destructive fire was the fifth one. On March 12, 1912, the stores of A. F. Hier & Son and John R. Turner were burned to the ground and by this time the citizens began to investigate matters. Many indications pointed to incendiaries and detectives were engaged to ferret out the cause of the many fires which had come so close together. But there was still more excitement yet to come. On May 3, 1912, the store and residence of William Kelso burned with all of their contents. The barking of a dog in the middle of the night wakened the Kelso family and enabled them to save their lives. By this time the inhabitants of St. Paul were on the border of a panic and there was a mass meeting to decide upon some definite plan of action to find out the cause of all these many fires. However, the fears of the people gradually subsided and nothing was done. Just about the time that they had come to the conclusion that the fire-bug had decided to burn no more buildings in the town, the new residence of Dr. J. W. Bell burned to the ground on the night of July 10, 1912, and the seventh fire had occurred. According to the newspaper accounts, the same dog which had warned the Kelso family two months previously again appeared on the scene and, by his barking, awakened the Bell family. This was the first fire in which lives were nearly lost, Mrs. Bell being severely burned before she escaped from the house. As might be expected, the people of St. Paul were aghast at this final calamity, and determined to leave no stone unturned in an effort to solve the cause of the seven fires which had taken place within a period of seven months. But it was to no avail; the mystery never has been solved, although some people had strong suspicion as to the guilty parties. Fortunately, this fire of July 10 has been the last one inflicted on the suffering town.

## BIG JOHN OF ST. PAUL.

In the summer of 1911, there arrived a big dog in St. Paul via the box car route. A brakeman, on opening a car, was astonished to see a dog of unusual size leap out and run down the railroad track. This particular dog was destined to become the hero of the fire-stricken town in the summer of 1912. He was a friendly sort of a canine and was soon a favorite of every one in the town, and the whole town shared in providing him with dainty bones and all those delicacies dear to the palate of a dog. When the assessor came around in the spring of 1912 and began to inquire concerning the ownership of the dog, he was told that the dog belonged to the town. Such an ownership was a puzzler for the assessor and he was in a quandry how to collect the two dollars from the town. But he was soon to find out to what degree the dog had endeared himself to the citizens of the town. The business men took up a collection for "Big John," and thus satisfied the craving of the law and thereby gave the dog another year of legal existence.

This is only half of the interesting story of this dog. The grateful citizens wanted to show their appreciation of his valuable barking and finally decided to present his dogship with a gold collar. The collar bore the engraving, "Big John. Hero. May 3, 1912, St. Paul, Ind." This inscription will enlighten the world where he mingles that this canine is a real hero, and that in St. Paul, Indiana, a dog has appreciative friends.

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CLAY TOWNSHIP.

Clay township was organized in March, 1836, and was laid off by the board of commissioners of Decatur county at their March term for that year. It is bounded as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the county line on the section line dividing sections 22 and 27, town 8, range 11; thence east four miles to the northeast corner of section 30, town 11, range 9; thence south eight miles to the township line dividing townships 9 and 10; thence west to the county line; thence with the county line to the place of beginning.

This township bears the distinction of being the only one in the county which contains an entire congressional township. It is composed of the whole of township 10, range 8, and six sections of town 10, range 9, six sections of town 11, range 8, and two sections of town 11, range 9. After this township was organized, and evidently on the same day, the board made the following entry on the record: "Ordered that sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9,

in range 8, township 9, be attached to the township of Clay." This gives the township its present limits.

The history of the settlement of Clay township may be divided into four parts, namely: The Buck-run settlement; the Clifty settlement; the Middle Fork settlement and the Duck Creek settlement.

#### BUCK-RUN.

The first to settle here was Milton Williamson, who, in 1822, with his family, located in the northeast part of the township. William Hartford and Bartemus Johnston, soon afterward (the same year), moved in and settled on this section. These three assisted each other in raising houses, clearing lands, and soon succeeded in establishing pleasant and comfortable houses—for that time.

In 1823 Caleb Stark settled on the quarter south of, and adjoining, the other three, the farm known as the Buck-Run spring, on the Vandalia road. He held the office of county commissioner at the time of contracting for and during the erection of the present court house. He lived to see the fruits of his labors in the development of many of the other interests of the county. The same year, Daniel Stoggsdell (or, "Elder" Stoggsdell) settled on Buck-Run, just above Mr. Stark, in which region, and afterwards throughout that and adjoining counties, he preached the Gospel in "God's first temples," the groves. He was many years ago gathered to his fathers, but "his works do follow him."

In 1823 David Johnson settled on the "quarter" north of Mr. Stark, where he lived until the year 1834, when he moved to Missouri. In the same year, George W. and Jeremiah V. King, emigrants from Maryland, settled in the same section. In 1835 George W. removed to a farm adjoining the small village of Needmore (since changed to Milford—the name being derived from the fact of a mill being erected at the ford, near that place), where he died some years thereafter.

#### CLIFTY SETTLEMENT.

In 1823, Doddridge Alley, an industrious and energetic farmer, removed from the Saltcreek settlement, in Franklin county, and located on Clifty, about one mile north of the place where Milford now stands. He was elected the first sheriff of the county, serving four years, and afterwards served two years in the state Legislature. Many amusing anecdotes are told of him



(some of which have some foundation of truth), and one of which is here related:

On being elected to the Legislature, he started on his journey to the capital, on horseback, and arrived there in due season; but, on being questioned by the clerk, it was found that he had forgotten his credentials. So he returned on his long, weary ride to obtain them. After a long night's ride he again made his appearance at the capital, and, on examination, his papers proved to be correct, when he was told that he was entitled to his seat. He replied: "No! no! I thank you; I have been riding hard all night, and I would rather stand." The clerk, accordingly, gave him the privilege. He lived on the farm he first settled on until the year 1861, when he died and was buried in a stone wall enclosure, with a beautiful monument upon it, which he had erected during his life.

John Brinson was the founder of the town of Milford. In 1824 he removed to that place, and established a drinking saloon; he lived there about five years, and then left for parts unknown. In the same year William Crawford moved to this place, made a plat of the town and lived there until 1837, when he moved to Missouri. Elijah Martin settled three-fourths of a mile north of the town, in the same year, and in a short time moved away.

In 1823, William Richie settled near Milford, where he lived until the year 1834, when he died. Mr. Richie was an old Revolutionary soldier, and was the first man buried in the graveyard in Milford. By his side sleep two of his comrades, William Crawford, and George W. King, Sr., who died in the ninety-third year of his age.

#### MIDDLE FORK SETTLEMENT.

In 1824, John Fugit, afterwards associate judge of Decatur county, settled in the central part of the township, on Middle Fork creek. He held the office of judge for a number of years, and died in the year 1846. James O'Laughlin settled, in the same year, in the same part of the county. He lived there a considerable length of time, from whence he moved to Milford. Richard Johnson settled at the same time and place, and died a resident of the same place. Walter and Jackson Braden settled in the year 1824, about two and one-half miles southeast of Milford, where they improved a considerable portion of the land. Jackson died at this place, in the year 1850. Walter Braden, a few years ago, removed to Greensburg, where he resided until his death. Thomas H. Miers settled one mile east of Milford, on the land

adjoining Walter Braden on the north, in the year 1824, and died at the same place in 1847. Samuel B. Todd, in the same year, settled about one and a half miles south of Milford on the land which has long been known as the Hittle farm. He lived there until 1837, when he removed to Illinois. Abel Todd, a brother of the above, settled two and one-half miles southeast, on the land where James Byers later lived. He lived there a short time, and removed to Iowa, where he died. David Douglass, a minister of the New-Light persuasion, settled in the year 1824, on the land later owned by Nelson Mowrey. He preached in the settlements adjoining him, lived to a good old age, and died on his farm. Patrick Ewing came from Kentucky in the year 1826, settling on the land adjoining Mr. Douglass. He built a rude log hut, and in the yard there grew a small sprout about the size of a riding whip. He spared it, and it grew to a great tree of four feet in diameter. Under its boughs he reared a family of fifteen children.

#### DUCK CREEK SETTLEMENT.

McClure Elliott, in the year 1824, settled on Duck creek, three miles west of Milford. William J. Lowrie, in the same year, settled two miles southwest of Milford, where he lived until 1852, when he died, and was buried by a large concourse of Sons of Temperance.

#### SCHOOL HOUSES.

The first school house was built on Dodridge Alley's land, in 1825. It was built of logs, with a fire-place occupying one end. Logs were sawed out at each side, greased paper being put in their place. This composed the model house of that time. Middle Fork school house was built in 1826. Buck Run and Duck Creek school houses were built in 1827. These school houses were used for preaching and for various other purposes. Harvey Harbinger was the first teacher in the Buck Run settlement and afterwards taught in the other districts. In 1836 the township was divided into districts. At this time the houses in the townships were built of logs. In 1837 a frame school house was erected in Milford. This was the first structure here for school purposes which was built of frame. In a few years afterward frames were erected, which have now become useless, and brick school houses have been erected over the township.

## CHURCHES.

The Baptist, Methodist, New Light and Presbyterian denominations held meetings in the various school houses, from 1825 until 1832, when the Hardshell Baptists erected a church. In 1842 the Methodists erected a church in Milford. The Christians, in the year 1843, built a church in Milford. Salem church, near Milford, was built in 1833, by the Associate Baptists. The history of the churches is found in another chapter.

## MANUFACTORIES.

The first mill was established by Jesse Fugit, a son of Judge Fugit, in 1825, and was run by horse-power. The first water-mill was built by Eli Critser, in 1826, near Adams, where the relics of the old Doddridge Alley mill now stands. In 1838, James Rose erected a woolen factory one-half mile west of Milford, which was run by horse-power. Edward Warthin established a distillery near the same place in 1836, the only one ever erected in the township; it continued for about five years. A tan yard was established in 1830 by a man named Wilkinson, on the land of Doddridge Alley.

The present officers of Clay township are as follows: Trustee, Francis M. Pumphrey; assessor, William Wilson; advisory board, J. W. Corya, Frank Tompson; road supervisors, John Kanouse, James Cory, Ewing Arnold and Morgan J. Ewing.

Clay is now the wealthiest township in the county, with the exception of Washington. The Columbus, Hope & Greensburg railroad runs east and west through this township and gives the inhabitants of this locality a ready outlet for their produce to the leading markets. It also has one railroad station on the Vernon, Greensburg & Rushville railroad, which cuts off a small corner of the southeast part of the township.

## MILFORD.

Milford is the oldest town in this township. It was platted and laid out by James Edwards, August 25, 1835, and was originally known by the name of Needmore; but just why this little village was encumbered with such a name is left to the imagination of the reader. Later additions to the original plat were made by William Crawford, George W. King, Silas Craig, James L. Fugit and James Marshall.

The first merchant to open a store in Milford and offer his wares for

sale was John Brinson. Mr. Brinson also bears the distinction of being the first merchant in Clay township and was well patronized by the early settlers who had taken up claims in this part of the county. The first millers to locate in this part of the county were the Critsers, who owned several mills along Clifty creek and for a time had a monopoly on the milling industry in this section. Their monopoly was contested for a time by William Burton, who owned and ran a horse-mill near Milford, to which he attached considerable importance. Mr. Burton put up a strong opposition for a time, but soon abdicated to the Critsers and left them in full sway. The first tannery was built and operated by James Wilkinson and McClure Elliott and furnished all the leather goods for the early consumption of the county. John Henderson was the first blacksmith to settle here and ply his trade, and was familiarly known to the early settlers of the time, far and near, as "Jackie." Mr. Henderson ironed the first wagon in this county for Fielding Peak. The first steam engine in this township was owned and operated by Edwin Warthin, in 1836 or 1837. It was used to drive the machinery of a mill on Clifty creek, a short distance below Milford. This mill also bears the distinction of being the first steam grist-mill, with a bolting apparatus, in the county. This was a great advertising asset to the owners, for it attracted settlers from all parts of this section to see the mill in actual operation. Before this advancement, the mills had been run by water power supplied by Clifty creek.

It is impossible to trace the various business changes in Milford from the beginning of the town down to the present time. The business interests of 1915 include three stores, owned by E. E. Lewis, J. F. Goff and Harry Peterson. The Lewis store is a well-stocked general mercantile establishment and is one of the best general stores in the county. The stores of Goff and Peterson carry only a small stock of groceries and depend for their patronage on the restaurants which they run in connection. Mr. Lewis also operates a restaurant and soda fountain in connection with his store. The village has one blacksmith, Lincoln Vandiver. There is no factory of any kind in the town, although Albert Sanders operates a flour-mill on Clifty creek, a half mile from town. His mill is run by water power when there is plenty of water and by a gasoline engine at such times as the water power is insufficient. The professional interests of the village are represented by Dr. George S. Crawford, who has been practicing in the place for a period of forty years. The history of the lodges of Milford (the Masons and Odd Fellows) and the churches (Methodist and Christian) will be found in their respective chapters elsewhere in this volume. The town is incorporated for



civil purposes only. The present town clerk is Doctor Crawford. The town once had a population of four hundred, but now has only about one hundred.

#### BURNEY.

The village of Burney, in Clay townhsip, on the Columbus, Hope & Greensburg railroad, was laid out on May 2, 1882, by James C. Pulse. It has enjoyed a steady growth from the beginning and is now a thriving town, with flourishing business enterprises and many attractive and comfortable homes. A fine, modern school building and two churches, Methodist and Baptist, take care of the educational and religious life of the community. The business and professional interests in 1915 are as follows: Bank, Burney State Bank; barber, Thomas J. Henderson; blacksmith, J. E. Wasson, G. M. Miner & Son; carpenter and contractor, Edward Clapp; coal dealer, Sidner & Price; dentist, Frank Davis; elevator, Sidner & Price; express, American Express Company; garage, Smiley & Dean; general store, A. E. Howe, J. C. Hayes, H. C. Lawrence; hardware, McCullough Hardware Co.; hotel, Mrs. M. J. Luther, Mrs. Clay Alexander; livery, Clay Alexander; lumber, Padgett & Son; meat market, W. S. Miner; music teachers, Alice Arnold, Mrs. Elsie Gartin; notary public, L. T. Howell, Fannie Johnson, W. W. Barnes; photographer, F. W. Kean; physician, C. G. Harrod, Edward Porter; painter, Thomson & Luther; postoffice, W. S. Miner; paper hanger, Miers & Galbraith; restaurant, F. W. Kean, W. S. Miner; real estate and insurance, L. T. Powell; saw-mill, Otto Detrich; shoe cobbler, Frank Hiner; station agent, J. S. Miner; stock buyer, Pumphrey & Son, Davis & Davis, W. W. Lane.

Burney is justly proud of its band, which was organized in the spring of 1915. Although at this time it has been practicing but a few months, it has already given concerts which were well received. It is under the direction of George Dunn, of Adams. The members of the band are as follows: Cornets, Herbert Lawson, Lora Hayes, Walter Bailey, Ralph Howe, Roscoe Arnold, Walter Galitine, Robert Champ and Russell Emlay; baritone, John Christian; alto, Jasper Spaugh and James Galbraith; tenors, Harry Jackson and H. C. Miner; clarinets, Ernest Miner and L. D. Lambert; trombones, Fred Luther, T. J. Hendrickson, Edwin Gibson and Roy Emlay; melophone, Clarence Thomson; tuba, Burney Jackson; bass, Clifford Thurston; snare drum, Henry Emlay; bass drum, Charles Gartin.

## WYNCOOP.

Wyncoop is the next town in size in this township. It was platted on February 23, 1881, by James Wyncoop and bears the founder's name, although the name of the postoffice has been changed to Horace. This town is situated on the North Vernon, Greensburg & Rushville railroad, in the extreme southeastern part of the township.

The business interests of the town in 1915 are confined to a general store, owned by E. A. Gibson, and a blacksmith shop, operated by Clyde Purvis. The station agent, Orlando Robbins, also buys grain. The postmaster is Mr. Gibson. The town has less than a dozen houses and a population of about thirty.

Ewington completes the list of towns in Clay township. This was formerly a postoffice for the convenience of the country people, but the rural free delivery has taken away its usefulness and at present only the name remains.

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FUGIT TOWNSHIP.

Fugit township was one of the three original townships laid off by the board of commissioners on May 14, 1822. The other two townships were Adams and Washington, the latter of which embraced considerably more than the southern half of the county. Fugit township, as originally set off, contained all the territory now within its limits with the exception of sections 32, 5, 8 and 17, and half sections 33, 4, 9 and 16. These four full and four half sections are now in the eastern part of Clinton township. They being a part of Clinton when it was organized July 6, 1829.

The original limits of the township as defined by the commissioners on May 14, 1822, are as follow: Beginning at the county line on the line dividing townships 10 and 11; thence west with township line to the southwest corner of section 35, range 10, township 11; thence north with the line dividing sections 34 and 35 to the southwest corner of section 26 in the township and range aforesaid; thence west with the section line to the southwest corner of section 28, in range 10, township 11; thence north with the said section line to the southwest corner of section 16, range 10, township 11; thence west with the section line to the southwest corner of section 17, range 10, township 11; thence north with the said line to the county line; thence east with the county line to the northeast corner of said county; thence south

with the county line to the place of beginning (Commissioners Record, Vol. I, page 1).

The next change in the territorial limits of Fugit township was made on March 7, 1825, at which time the board of justices issued the following ambiguous order: "That part of Washington township which lies east and north of a road viewed from Henderson's to the county line near Alexander McCall's, including said road, to be attached to and made a part of Fugit township" (Board of Justice Records, Vol. I, page 128). Just where this strip was located is impossible to determine from the records, since it is not defined by section, town or range. However this slip on the part of the board of justices was rectified on May 2, 1825, when the commissioners re-defined the township limits in the following definite manner: Beginning at the county line, on the range line dividing ranges 9 and 10; thence south on said line to the southwest corner of section 19, township 11, range 10; thence east two miles; thence south one mile; thence east two miles; thence south one mile to the township line dividing townships 10 and 11, thence east with said line to the county line; thence with the lines of the county to the place of beginning (Board of Justice Records, Vol. I, page 128). Subsequently, on May 3, 1830, the board of justices ordered that the west half of section 21, township 11, range 10, which lies in Clinton township be and the same is newly attached to the township of Fugit in the said county of Decatur (Vol. II, page 87). This gives Fugit township its present limits.

#### SETTLEMENT.

Several families had settled within what is now Fugit township before the county of Decatur was organized in 1822. The county was carved out of the "New Purchase," which had been bought from the Indians in the fall of 1818, although the lands were not offered for sale at the Brookville land office until the fall of 1820. During the winter and spring of 1818, seven families came over from near Matamora, Franklin county, and "squatted" in what is now Fugit township. This was probably the first effort toward a permanent settlement in the new territory. Just about the same time, there were three other settlements in the southeastern part of the "New Purchase"—one on Flatrock, in Rush county; a second on Haw creek, in Bartholomew county; the third on Big Flatrock, in Shelby county. Of course, these first seven families could enter no land here, as it had not yet been surveyed; who they were, where they finally located, and whether they became permanent settlers in the county later on has not been determined. Nearly one hun-



ADANI RANKIN.  
Born in Kentucky in 1790; died at Spring Hill in 1861.  
CYRUS HAMILTON. Born in Virginia in 1780; died near Clarksburg, 1875.  
Born in Kentucky in 1800; died near Kingston in 1879.

SETH LOWE.  
Born in North Carolina 1787; died in Iowa in 1871.  
SAMUEL DONNELL.  
Born in Virginia in 1769; died near Kingston in 1850.





dred years have elapsed since that day and no records are available to trace the mysterious seven families.

It is taken by common consent that the Fugit family were the first real settlers in what is now the township bearing their name. John Fugit, and his two children, John and Mary, came to the township in the latter part of February, 1819. They selected a site for their cabin and, while engaged in putting it up, were joined by Griffy Griffith, his wife and son, Ishmael. The Griffiths located one mile west of Clarksburg, where they lived until the death of the father and mother.

After Fugit and his son had their rude cabin ready for occupancy, the whole family, consisting of the father, mother, four sons and two daughters, made this township their permanent home for a number of years. The Fugits entered no land and citizens of the township have never agreed as to the exact spot where the old Fugit cabin stood. Some have maintained that they settled northeast of Clarksburg, while others hold that they located one mile east of Clarksburg on land later entered by Benjamin Snelling. Still others believe that the Fugits squatted on the old Luther Donnell place. Strange to say, neither James L. Fugit, one of the sons of the old pioneer, nor Mary, a daughter (who became the wife of David Garrison), could identify the exact spot where their father had settled. They had removed to Clay township in 1825 and when they revisited their first home in the county, several years later, the surroundings were so changed that they were unable to agree as to where the family cabin had stood. It is probable that it was on the Donnell farm, which had been entered by Thomas Donnell, Sr., in 1822. They doubtless purchased the improvements on the place from Fugit.

At the first election in 1822, John Fugit was chosen associate judge. His daughter, Sarah, married Joseph Webb, and this was the first marriage in the county. The license was secured at Brookville in the fall of 1819 and the marriage took place presumably in the log cabin in Fugit township. John Fugit died at Milford (Clifty) in 1844. At the present time the Fugit line is not represented by any male bearing the name in the county.

Shortly after the Fugits and Griffiths had located here, in the spring of 1819, they were joined by five other families: John and Elisha Jerrett (Gerrard), Jesse and Cornelius Cain and William McCoy. John Jerrett died in the spring of 1820, and was, as far as is known, the first one to die in the county. A daughter of Jerrett, Nellie by name, was born in the fall of 1819 and was the first white child to be born in the county. The Cains settled near Spring Hill, but a few years later moved into Rush county, where

Jesse lived until his death. George Cain emigrated to the west and within a few years the family name disappears from the records of both Decatur and Rush counties. McCoy first located near Griffith and then moved over into what is now Adams township north of Downeyville. The McCoy family have been prominently identified with the history of the county from its beginning down to the present time. Ishmael Griffith married a daughter of William Walters, near Kingston, and at his death left two sons, John and James. John was accidentally killed near Downeyville and James served in the Civil War as a member of Company F, Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry. This disposes of all the important incidents connected with the immigrants of 1819.

During the spring and summer of 1820 the land in this county was surveyed by Col. Thomas Hendricks and in October of that year it was placed on sale at Brookville. However, before the land was formally opened for settlement the settlers began to pour in at a rapid rate. In the summer and fall of 1820, the following families located in what is now Fugit township: Seth Lowe, William Custer, George and Samuel Donnell, James Saunders, Nathan Lewis, James and Moses Wiley, Robert Hall, Rev. James Hall, David Stout, Joseph Rankin, John Bryson, Adam Rankin, William, Joseph and James Henderson and Joseph A. Hopkins.

#### LAND ENTRIES.

The first land entry was made on October 9, 1820, by James Wiley, who entered one hundred and sixty acres in section 1, township 10, range 11. John Shelhorn and John M. Robinson entered tracts shortly afterwards. From the 9th of October, 1820, to December 31, there were forty-eight entries in what is now Fugit township, while there were only forty-five entries made in all the rest of the county.

These forty-eight pioneers were as follows: James Wiley, John Shelhorn, John M. Robinson, George Kline, John Bryson, James Saunders, Joseph K. Rankin, Thomas Martin, Griffy Griffith, David Martin, Cornelius Cain, Joseph Henderson, Edward Jackman, William Henderson, William Lindsey, George Marlow, Adam Rankin, Joseph A. Hopkins, Thomas Throp, Samuel A. Githens, Robert Imlay, Daniel Swem, John Hicklin, Aquilla Cross, William Custer, John Shutz, Martin and Alexander Logan, James Logan, William Pruden, John Dawson, Elias Garrard, Charles Collett, John Linville, James Hobbs, Jr., Robert E. and Henry Hall, Thomas Hall, Moses Wiley, George Donnell, John Smart, Robert and John Lockridge, Richard

Tyner, George Cowan, James Henderson and Nathan Lewis. The striking fact of these entries is that practically everyone entering the land was a bona fide settler on the land he entered. Only two or three never became residents of the townships.

During 1821 there were fifty-nine additional entries in the township—thus making a total of one hundred and seven entries before the county was organized in the spring of 1822. As a matter of fact, there were a number of entries in the township between January 1, and May 14, 1822, the date on which the township was formally organized. It seems there were only thirteen entries during the whole of 1822.

The fifty-nine entries of 1821 were as follow: James Oliver, David Robertson, Samuel Marlow, Henry Glen, Jacob Blacklege, John Wilcoxon, Jesse Womack, Robert Wilson, Adam R. Meek, George Marlow, William Braden, Jacob Underwood, Columbus McCoy, Hugh McCracken, Nathaniel Smith, Henry McDaniel, John Lockridge, Jacob F. Miller, Isaac Donnell, John Hopkins, Zenas Powell, David Caldwell, Lewis Hendricks, Charles Swerengin, George Kendall, John Chanslor, Samuel Donnell, Thomas I. Glass, Jonathan J. Stites, William M. Smith, John Thompson, Thomas Cross, William M. Smith, Seth Lowe, Thomas Hamilton, Cyrus Hamilton, James Moss, Peter Miller, George Kendall, William Lippard, Jesse Cain, Jesse Robinson, George Conner, William Penny, Henry Roberts, William Snelling, Edgar Poe, Sampson Alley, Edward Davis, William Marlow, Benjamin Snelling, George Craig, James Sefton, Daniel Bell, Daniel Ryce, Frank Kitchin, Nathan Underwood, Ralph Williams, James Caldwell, Samuel Donner and David Robertson. It will be noticed that some of these men entered more than one tract in that year; some had entered land in the previous year also.

The entries of 1822 were as follow: David Vancleave, James McCracken, R. B. Donnell, Andrew Calloway, John D. Henry, John P. Mitchell, John Smart, Joseph Snelling, William Kennedy, Sarah Linville, Mary Munns and William Munns. The year 1822 practically closed the sale of government land in Fugit township. Not all of the land was yet taken, but that which was left was a narrow strip on the eastern side of the township, known as the "Poor Woods," and was not entered until after the thirties. Most of it was taken up by German immigrants, who have succeeded in making it as productive as most of the rest of the township. The first German settlers in the township were George Schellings, Antwa Charles and John Arnold. They were stone masons and found plenty of work in their profession. Elsewhere in this volume is a special chapter on the German element in Decatur



county, together with a list of the Germans who became naturalized citizens of the county.

It might be well at this point to make mention of the colored settlement in Fugit township. Early in the forties a few colored families located a few miles east of Clarksburg and by 1852 they numbered about seventy-five souls. Some of them owned small farms, but the most of them depended for a livelihood on working on the farms of the white citizens. They took an active part in helping fugitives slaves to make their way across the county and over into Union county. Their participation in the "underground railroad" enterprise is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. When the fugitive slave law of 1852 was passed many of them left the county, some going to other parts of the state and many of them finally reaching Canada. There is now only one left in the township, Margaret Wilson, of Kingston.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWNSHIPS.

As has been stated, Decatur county began its independent career on May 14, 1822, on which day the commissioners held their first meeting. On this day the whole county was divided into three townships, Washington, Adams and Fugit. The county commissioners appointed officers for each township, those for Fugit being as follows: Isaac Darnall, inspector of elections; Henry Hobbs, constable; Thomas Throp, superintendent of the reserve section (school section) in township 11, range 10; William Custer and Joseph Henderson, overseers of the poor; William Leopard, Robert Emily and George Marlow, fence viewers. On this same day (May 14, 1822) the commissioners ordered elections to be held at the house of Thomas Throp, the first election to be on June 1, following, for a justice of the peace.

#### EARLY INDUSTRIES.

The first store in the township, and perhaps in the county, was started at Spring Hill by James Conwell, of Laurel (Franklin county), in 1823. Conwell was a thrifty trader and established the store here as a branch of his large store in Laurel. He placed Martin Benson in charge of the store at Spring Hill. The first postoffice was at this place and John Bryson became the first postmaster. Bryson was later an associate judge. Nathan Lewis had a corn-cracker, operated by horse-power, early in the twenties. Later Lewis converted his mill into a bark grindery and pulverized slippery elm, dogwood and sassafras barks for the Eastern markets. Edward Jackman

was the first to install a carding machine and found plenty of business to keep him busy. William Henderson was interested in a number of enterprises; he operated a grist-mill, a carding factory and a distillery and found a ready sale for the products of all three establishments. He was located a short distance east of Spring Hill. A grist-mill was operated at an early date about a mile south of Kingston by a man named Smith. Lewis Lacker opened up a tan yard on the farm later owned by Everett Hamilton and furnished the community with leather for several years. Joseph Henderson opened the first tavern in the township a short distance east of Spring Hill.

#### EARLY SCHOOLS.

The early settlers of Fugit township were very much interested in education and shortly after they located here they began to make provisions for educating their children. In 1901 Camilla Donnell, a descendant of one of the most prominent families of the township, prepared a paper on the "Early Schools of Fugit Township," and the historian is indebted to her excellent article for the main facts concerning the schools of the township. Just where the first school house was located is not definitely known, although it is certain that schools were kept in log cabins for some years before a school building was erected. There appear to have been three or four schools in operation in 1823-24 in as many different neighborhoods. They were situated in the midst of thick woods and blazed trails led the way to the school house door. The first school in the Kingston neighborhood was held in an empty log cabin on the line between the farms then owned by Seth Lowe and Aquilla Cross. Whether Samuel Donnell, a man well known in early religious, educational and reform movements, or Samuel Henry, an intelligent farmer and excellent scholar, was the first teacher has not been established. Both taught at one time or another in the township. Elijah Mitchell, who taught at various places over Decatur county, was another of the early wielders of the rod. Still other teachers were the Misses Howe, two Eastern women, who conducted a school at the home of the first Presbyterian minister, Mr. Lowry. All the schools were subscription schools up to 1832 and the teacher was usually compelled to take his pay out in farm produce. In about 1832 the township was organized into school sections and received a small amount of money from the sale of school lands. A few school houses were built in the township about this time and three months sessions were held. Most of the buildings were also used for subscription schools for a few months in addition to the three months of public school. In 1833 the first brick school

house in the township, and probably in the county, was erected on the farm of Cyrus Hamilton, in the field southwest of his house. Rev. James McCoy, Elijah Mitchell, Davis Henry and many other excellent old pioneers taught in this building.

A second district school building was built a little later on the old Throp farm, near the homestead of Andrew Robison. It was known as the Robison school house until its subsequent removal to Carmel. A third school house of the early days stood on the farm of Martin Benson, later owned by Warder Hamilton. The salaries of these faithful teachers were very meager. The mother of Camilla Donnell (then Mrs. Minerva Bartholomew), who taught at the brick school house and also at the Benson school, received only eight dollars a month. But it must be remembered that able-bodied men were glad to work for twenty-five cents a day in the early history of the county.

About 1845 a school was established by Rev. King, a Presbyterian minister, in the town which still bears his name (Kingston). A private school was also taught by Rev. Cable, another Presbyterian minister, near Kingston. These two excellent schools so weakened the Brick, Benson and Robison schools that they were finally abandoned. The houses were sold or moved away and the district school was permanently established in the village of Kingston about 1852 or 1853. Rev. Benjamin Nyce, an educator of great originality and ability, became its head, and it entered on a career of unparalleled usefulness and prosperity.

In 1853 William Dobyns, for Clarksburg, Thomas Hamilton, for Kingston, and James Bonner, for Spring Hill, were appointed a board of township trustees, one retiring each year. Their duties were to arrange the township into school districts, provide suitable buildings and engage teachers. Other members of the school board at different times were Henry Kerrick, S. A. Donnell, J. H. Cartmell and George Kennedy. This board of three members continued at the head of the township schools until 1859, when Luther Donnell was elected trustee under the new law. He had complete charge of the schools of the township and since that time the affairs of the schools have been concentrated in the hands of one man. While the board of three had charge of affairs, the Kingston school was established in the Presbyterian church, which had been bought for that purpose.

The new Constitution of 1852 provided for a system of free public schools and funds were set aside for one building for each school district. The public-spirited citizens of the three larger districts—Clarksburg, Kingston and Spring Hill—raised enough money by private subscription to erect

two-story buildings in their respective towns, the law providing only sufficient money for one-story buildings.

The first Spring Hill school was housed in one of the traditional empty log cabins. It stood on the big hill, just east of the present road, on the farm of James Martin. It was begun not earlier than 1824, since its first teacher, Thomas Meek, the assessor of a large part of the Spring Hill community, did not emigrate from Kentucky until 1823. Its second teacher was William Marlow. Another early school was held in the old Bryson homestead, but the Martin school seems to have been the forerunner of the Spring Hill district school.

Probably as early as 1835 a district school house was built on the farm of Adam Rankin, not far from the present school site. It was afterward rebuilt and enlarged and remained in use until the erection of the two-story brick building early in the Civil War. It was burned down in 1894 and replaced by the present one-story building. Among the teachers of Spring Hill may be mentioned some men who later made a reputation in the world—such men as Stanley Coulter, now of Purdue University; Rev. Thomson, of Tarkeo, Missouri; R. M. Miller and Marshall Hacker were principals of the Spring Hill school at various times.

The Carmel neighborhood was the home of John Bell, one of the earliest and best-known teachers in the township. Its early school history has been lost in oblivion, but it is probable that early schools were held in the cabin near the home of Andrew McCoy and in a deserted shop on the McCracken farm. The first district school in the Carmel neighborhood was built on the farm of Jacob Miller sometime in the thirties. It was probably in use until the fifties when it was succeeded by a second building. The third building is now in use, a neat and comfortable structure which meets all of the modern requirements.

The Clarksburg community had some of the earliest settlers and undoubtedly some of the earliest private schools. Unfortunately, it seems impossible to get exact data concerning them. The best known of these schools was held in a cabin on the farm of Luther Donnell. Another early private school was held in the home of Nathan Lewis. It is probable that the first district school was located on South Main street, in a building which had been used as a residence. Mrs. Minerva Bartholomew taught in 1837 in an empty shop in the eastern part of the town. The forerunner of the present village school was located opposite the residence of J. N. Moore. Among the early teachers of Clarksburg may be mentioned Elijah Mitchell, John Bell, Joseph Rankin, George McCoy and Nimrod Kerrick. Of these



early teachers Nimrod seems to have been the most successful and best beloved. A two-story brick building was erected in 1856 in Clarksburg on the present school site and remained in use until about 1880 when a four-room building was erected. In 1910 a modern, eight-room brick building was erected.

Sufficient has been said of the early schools of Fugit township to show that its public-spirited citizens were keenly alive to the value of good schools. The fact that so many men and women have gone out from the schools of the township well equipped to take their place in the world is ample evidence that the schools have been doing their work well. Clarksburg now has a consolidated school and gives a four-year commissioned high-school course. The schools will rank well with any in the state and the citizens of the community may take a just pride in the work they are doing. There are seven teachers in the town and five teachers in the rural schools of the township in 1915.

#### CHURCHES.

The history of the many churches of the township may be found in the special church chapter. Fugit township has been a peculiarly religious community. Most of the early settlers were Presbyterian in faith, although the Methodists and Christians have been strong enough to establish churches. The Germans who settled in the county were nearly all Catholics and they support a strong congregation at St. Maurice. At one time or another there have been three Presbyterian, two Methodist, one Christian and one Catholic church in Fugit township.

The officers of Fugit township are as follow: Trustee, Albert T. Brock; assessor, David D. Morgan; advisory board, Clinton B. Emmert, Walter Scott and Carl E. Brown; supervisors of roads, Frank Winger, John Handiges and Jacob Mauer.

#### KINGSTON.

Situated in the southeastern corner of Fugit township is the pretty little village of Kingston, which was laid out in 1851 by Seth Lowe and others. It was one of the first settled points in the county and there was a straggling village there many years before it was formally platted and an attempt was made to make it a town of any importance. The town has grown up around the Presbyterian church, formerly known as the Sand Creek congregation, but now called the Kingston church. The complete history of this interesting church is given in the church chapter elsewhere in

this volume. A general store, run by W. K. Stewart, and a blacksmith shop, operated by Harry Walker, are all the industries of the town at the present time. The town has a population of about fifty souls.

ST. MAURICE.

As its name indicates, the town of St. Maurice is of Catholic origin. It was laid out by D. Montague, August 12, 1859, primarily because of the Catholic church which was located here. It is in the south central part of Fugit township and is the center of the Catholic population of this part of the county. The present enterprises include the following: General store, Frank Kramer; tailor, Martin Moser; saw-mill, Benjamin Moorman; blacksmith, Albert Walke. There are less than fifty people in the town.

• SPRING HILL.

A postoffice was maintained at Spring Hill, in the northwest corner of Fugit township, but it has long since been discontinued. The first settlers of Decatur county located near this point and the first store in the county was established here by James Conwell. When Clarksburg began to grow in importance, Spring Hill rapidly declined and today there is only one building left on the site of the once thriving village—the Spring Hill Presbyterian church, the most beautiful country church in the county. In this case the best part of the village has survived the longest.

CLARKSBURG.

The town of Clarksburg was laid out, April 9, 1832, by Woodson Clark, who had, however, bestowed his name on the little village prior to that date. Clark erected the first house and James Wiley, who entered the first land in Fugit township, put up the second log cabin. The town is one of the oldest in the county and had it been fortunate to attract a railroad it would undoubtedly have become a trading center of importance. It is surrounded by a rich farming community and the high character of its citizens from the beginning has made it a favored section of the county. Its churches and schools have always taken a prominent part in the life of the community and their influence has been such that the people of Clarksburg and Fugit township have taken the lead in many of the religious, educational and reform movements in the county. Much of the early history of the town is

covered in the discussion of Fugit township, while the churches, schools and lodges are treated in special chapters.

Clarksburg has always been an excellent trading center, despite the fact that it is several miles from a railroad. Daily hacks make the trip to Greensburg, and now a large automobile truck makes a round trip daily with freight and passengers. The main industries of the town in 1915 are as follows: Apiarist, Alexander Walker; bank, Clarksburg State Bank, A. T. Brock, cashier; barber, Clarence Cornelius, George Rogers; blacksmith, W. W. Gross, John Brodie, Charles Brown; carriage painter, Elmer Hutton; carpenter, James Moore, Morgan & Hall; drugs, A. C. Shumm; flour-mill, C. B. Emmert; garage, C. C. Jeffrey Smith, French & Martz; general store, Fred Lampe, Homer Russell, D. R. Higgins; hardware, H. C. Doles; hotel, Mattie Miller; harness, James L. Burns; livery, Jasper Jackson, George Davis; millinery, Mrs. Emma Shumm; paper hanger, C. L. Sample; painters, A. C. Burns, John Bruner, John VonRisserf, Glen Gross, M. B. Hite; photographer, C. B. Harrell; pool room, Waldo McGuire; physician, C. M. Beall, Prosser E. Clark, W. E. Thomas, J. L. Smith; restaurants, Morgan Brothers, Monte Linville; saw-mill, C. B. Emmert; stone and brick mason, Peter Christy; truck driver, Oscar F. Kuhn (daily auto trips to Greensburg); veterinary, A. E. Alexander; well digger, J. W. Christian.

The town receives a sealed pouch daily from the Greensburg postoffice. J. L. Smith is the postmaster. The town has never been incorporated.

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#### JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

Jackson township was established by the board of commissioners, March 3, 1834. It is bounded as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of the county, thence north to the township line, dividing townships 9 and 10, thence east four and a half miles to the center of section 2, on the north side thereof; thence south to the Jennings county line; thence west to the place of beginning. These limits have never been changed.

Jackson township was among the last to be settled, as its soil was black and wet and the early settlers sought land with natural drainage, that could be cultivated early in the spring. Since farmers have learned the use of tile ditches, Jackson township has come into its own and its burr oak flats are now considered the equal of any farming land in the county. Following the subdivisions of the original government survey, most of the farms

in this township are square or oblong, and the roads run on section lines, which make it very convenient in getting about.

Among the early settlers of the township were Henry Hawk and Enoch Foster, who came from Ohio; Daniel Sullivan and Charles Guinea, who came from Jefferson county, and Samuel Eli, from Union county. These men are supposed to have settled in Jackson township in 1828. Others who came soon after were: Samuel Thomson, William Evans, Adam Hall, Adam Petree, Abram Barrett, James Wheeldon, William H. Eddleman, John Chambers, Chesley Woodard, Daniel Eddleman, William and James Chambers, Eliza Moncrieg and Jack Herring.

William Evans built the first saw-mill in Jackson township and the first church in the township was built by the Baptists upon land donated for that purpose by Charles Woodard. Early school teachers of the township were P. N. Bishop and John McCleary. The first school building was built in 1834 on the farm entered by William Evans. Unlike the present comfortable school houses of the township, this early building was very primitive. It had a puncheon floor, clapboard roof and door, split sapling for seats and the large fireplace had only a dirt backwall. The only writing desks were rough boards on two sides of the building, supported by pins driven into the walls. Light was provided through windows made of oiled newspapers.

Writing of this early school, J. A. Dillman, one of its first pupils says: "McCleary was too tender hearted to whip, but one day some of us boys did something that it was necessary to punish us for in order to maintain his authority. Eight of us were sent to the woods and each of us brought in a good-sized beech 'gad'. Then he paired us off and made us whip one another, lap-jacket fashion, only that one of us whipped at a time. I was a weakly boy of ten, and my opponent was a big boy of fourteen, with a pair of buckskin breeches and a fawn-skin vest with woolsey blouse. I whipped first and laid it on light, hoping that my friend would do the same—indeed it was no use to strike hard, for you might as well have tried to hurt a rhinoceros; but when it came his turn he brought down his "gad" like whipping a balky ox, while I yelled and screamed with pain. But then ends of justice were satisfied and so were McCleary and the big boy."

The southern part of the township was crossed by a railroad in the eighties and thus the farmers got a much easier access to the markets. Along the railroad sprang up the flourishing towns of Sardinia and Alert. Other towns in the township are Waynesburg and Newburg (Forest Hill).

The present officers of Jackson township are as follow: Trustee, Sam



Kelly; assessor, William Barton; advisory board, Albert Moncrieff, Jacob Thurston, John H. Cooper; road supervisors, Ed. T. Fraley, Walter Shaw, Dan Carnes and William Golay; justice of the peace, Joseph A. Burns.

#### FOREST HILL.

The town of Forest Hill was laid out on March 17, 1852, by Newberry Wheeldon as Newburg. It is an inland village, in the extreme northern part of Jackson township, and is two miles from the Michigan division of the Big Four railroad. The fact that it does not have railroad connection has made it impossible to enjoy much of a growth. It is a pleasant little village, with good, well-shaded streets, and a quiet air of prosperity. A Presbyterian church and a modern two-room school building take care of the religious and educational life of the community. It was once incorporated for both civil and school purposes, but the village did not prove large enough to support itself as an independent community. The present interests are confined to the following: Blacksmith, J. K. Devening; general store, E. T. Fraley; grocery, A. W. Crigler; physician, M. C. Vest (county coroner); restaurant, Emmett Watson. The present population is about one hundred and twenty-five.

#### WAYNESBURG.

Waynesburg was laid out in the central western part of Jackson township by George Lough on November 4, 1844. It is three miles from a railroad and for this reason has never become a town of any importance. The fifteen houses of the town shelter a happy community who find employment in the various enterprises of the town or on farms in the vicinity. The stores are those of Thomas Burch, George Himelich and Henry Purvis. A saw-mill is operated by William Barton and Frank Van Scyoc. John Cornelius is the village blacksmith.

#### ALERT.

James Bannister is the patron saint of Alert, a town which he laid out on August 30, 1886. It is located in the southeastern part of Jackson township, on the Chicago, Terre Haute & Eastern railroad, and is a thriving business little place which lives up to its name. Several years ago there was a two-story sash saw-mill here which did a big business for many years before it was finally closed down in 1876. The logs were cut with a cross-cut saw instead of a circular saw, a fact which explains why it was a two-





SCENES ON MARION ELLIOTT STOCK FARM, JACKSON TOWNSHIP.



LESTER ELLIOTT, JACKSON TOWNSHIP CORN PRIZE WINNER.





story building. A bank has been recently established in the town and a canning factory was built in the summer of 1915, which was ready to handle the crop of that year.

The business and professional interests of Alert in 1915 included the following: Bank, Alert State Bank; barber, Albert Jordan; blacksmiths, A. B. Blazer, Earl Wright; canning factory, Frank Doty, Jr.; dentist, C. L. Hill; elevator, Blish Milling Co., of Seymour, Edward Talkington, manager; garage, John Saters; general store, S. B. Leach, W. E. Wolfer; harness, J. H. Burns; house mover, Jacob Wolfinger; postmaster, Thomas J. Morton; veterinary, Raymond Bannister; woodworker, Ora Clayton.

In 1914 the railroad company built stock sheds at Alert and a large amount of stock is now shipped from the town. Large quantities of hay and grain are bought annually by the Blish Milling Company, of Seymour, through its local agent, Edward Talkington, and his assistant, Earl Arnold. The Alert Telephone Company has sixty-two patrons on its own line, which is operated through an exchange in charge of J. C. Nicholson. It has free service with all exchanges in Decatur and Bartholomew counties and pay connection with the Bell and Independent long distance lines. Samuel Kelly, who lives at the edge of town, has one of the best small fruit farms in Decatur county and ships a large amount of fruit to the city markets.

#### SARDINIA.

Sardinia, the largest town in Jackson township, was laid out on May 17, 1865, by J. S. Harper and fifteen others. For a number of years J. S. Harper operated one of the largest stores in the state here, but too much credit forced him out of business. The historian was told that when he closed his store he had ninety thousand dollars worth of accounts due him. Certainly no man could keep a business going on such a basis. Harper built what is still probably the largest house in the county—a magnificent nineteen-room, brick mansion, which cost upwards of twenty thousand dollars. He lived in regal style and his many colored servants and lavish entertainments are well remembered by the older citizens. As long as he was in the town Harper was its main attraction and with the closing out of his business the town settled down to a quiet existence which still continues undisturbed by the whirl of the outside world. The postoffice was formerly called Big Creek.

The present interests of the town, few in number, include the following: Barbers, Roscoe McKelvey, Earl McGovern; blacksmiths, Samuel Ammer-

man, Albert Cornelius; flour mill, George Claypool; general store, McNelan & Anderson; grocery, Harry Taggart; hardware, John Gross & Son; hotel, John Bowen; ice cream parlor, Wilson & Vanblaricum; livery, John Bowen; saw-mill, John Gross & Son; station agent, W. H. Petree; stock buyer, John Dennison, John Smith.

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#### MARION TOWNSHIP.

Marion township, originally a part of Washington township and later of Sand Creek township, was organized by authority of the county commissioners on May 2, 1831, when its boundaries were defined as follows: "Beginning at the Washington township line on the section line dividing sections 27 and 28, township 10, range 9; thence north on the section line to the county line; thence eastwardly with the line of the county and Salt Creek township to the Washington township line; thence west with the line of Washington township to the place of beginning."

The population of Marion township is largely German. The northern half of the township is rolling and in some places the land is rough and broken. The eastern and southern portion is flat and was originally covered with oak, maple and gum. A good share of it is poor woods land. The first church in the township was that of the Immaculate Conception at Millhousen, which was erected in 1840, when Maximillian Schneider donated forty acres of land for this purpose. The first school house was also built by the Catholics and was placed close to the church. Maximillian Schneider, who was one of the leading spirits in the new community, kept the first store, which was located at Millhousen. Later he sold the store to Barney Hardbeck, who had built the first mill at Millhousen. The first mill in Marion township was erected by a man named Bush and was located on the banks of Sand creek.

#### SETTLEMENT.

The first settlers of Marion township, as indicated by the original land entries, were: John Robbins, Sampson McConnell, Abisha Matherly, John McConnell, James Parnell, John Hazelrigg, Dilliard Hazelrigg, John Lineville, Thomas McLaughlin, Jonathan Thompson, Isaac Ricketts, Dudley Anderson, W. White and Thomas Fortune. Other early-comers were John Myres, John and Hiram Fortune, Sarah Anderson, James Hooten, Dudley Taylor and John Morton.

Early German settlers were Maximillian Schneider, Christian Ruhl, Theodore Frey, Frank Rubard, George and Francis Verkamp, Henry Pulse, Gabriel Pulse, John and Adam Hessler and Theodore Willmer. In another chapter is given an account of the Germans and their part in the county's history.

The present officers of Marion township are as follows: Trustee, Dan Holcomb; assessor, Frank Vaske; advisory board, John B. Rolfes, Anthony Schroer and Simeon H. Kennedy; road supervisors, John Vanderpohl, Leonard Alexander and Bernard Kohrman; William Forket, justice of the peace; William J. Robinson, constable.

#### MILLHOUSEN.

Millhousen is a Catholic village located on Squaw run, in Marion township, ten miles southeast of Greensburg. Maximillian Schneider, who settled here in 1838, donated forty acres of land on June 29, 1840, to Bishop La Halandiere, of Vincennes, for the purpose of establishing a church and laying out a town. The name Millhousen was adopted for the proposed town in honor of Mr. Schneider's native town of the same name in Germany. The first settlers were composed of emigrants from various parts of Germany, among whom were thirteen families, most of whom were mechanics. All were poor and dependent upon their daily labor for subsistence. In 1840 a plain chapel, twenty by twenty-four feet, was erected, and ten years later a larger building, thirty-eight by sixty feet, was built on the same site. In 1857 a parochial school was added. The present church is one hundred and forty by fifty-five feet, and has a beautiful tower in which is a large clock.

There have been several business enterprises in the town in the past, but changing conditions have seen the disappearance of most of them. The first store and postoffice was kept by Maximillian Schneider. Barney Hardebeck followed Schneider in the same store. Hardebeck also built the first mill in the town, a woolen-mill which was run under several different managements until the early eighties. Other owners of this same mill were B. Zapfe & Brinkman, followed by Zapfe alone. Hardebeck again took charge of the mill after Zapfe and, while he was operating it a second time it was burned. He at once rebuilt it and continued to run it until it was permanently closed down.

The town was once larger than it is today and formerly boasted of a population of about four hundred; today there are approximately three



hundred in the town. The business and professional interests in 1915 in Millhousen are as follows: Barbers, Joseph Pfeifer, John Green; Blacksmiths, Edward Henninger, John and Louis Scheidler; brick and stone masons, John Green, Frank Klosterkemper; carpenters, Theodore Schneider, Anthony Reisman; drugs, Dr. J. C. Glass; flouring-mill, Joseph Herbert & Sons; general store, B. W. Zapfe, Philomena Moorman; hack line (Millhousen & Greensburg), Andrew Butz; harness, Joseph Herbert & Sons; hotel, Ferdinand Wittkemper; ice cream parlor, Mrs. Mollie Herbert; livery, Edward Henninger; painter and paper hangers, Joseph Pfeifer, John Herbert, Anthony Reisman; photographer, Louis Scheidler; postmaster, Dr. J. C. Glass; physicians, J. C. Class, Nicholas Bauman; saw-mill, Joseph Herbert & Sons; tinner, Louis Scheidler; saloons, Will Link, Ferdinand Wittkemper; wagon makers, George Scheidler, Charles Henninger.

Millhousen is not on a railroad and thus is seriously handicapped in various ways. The mail comes daily from Greensburg in a sealed pouch. B. W. Zapfe runs an automobile truck daily between Millhousen and Greensburg and hauls all of his goods from the county seat. Zapfe also runs two huckster wagons the year round. The Millhousen Telephone Company, a local concern, has one hundred and twenty-six subscribers. The exchange is now located in B. W. Zapfe's store.

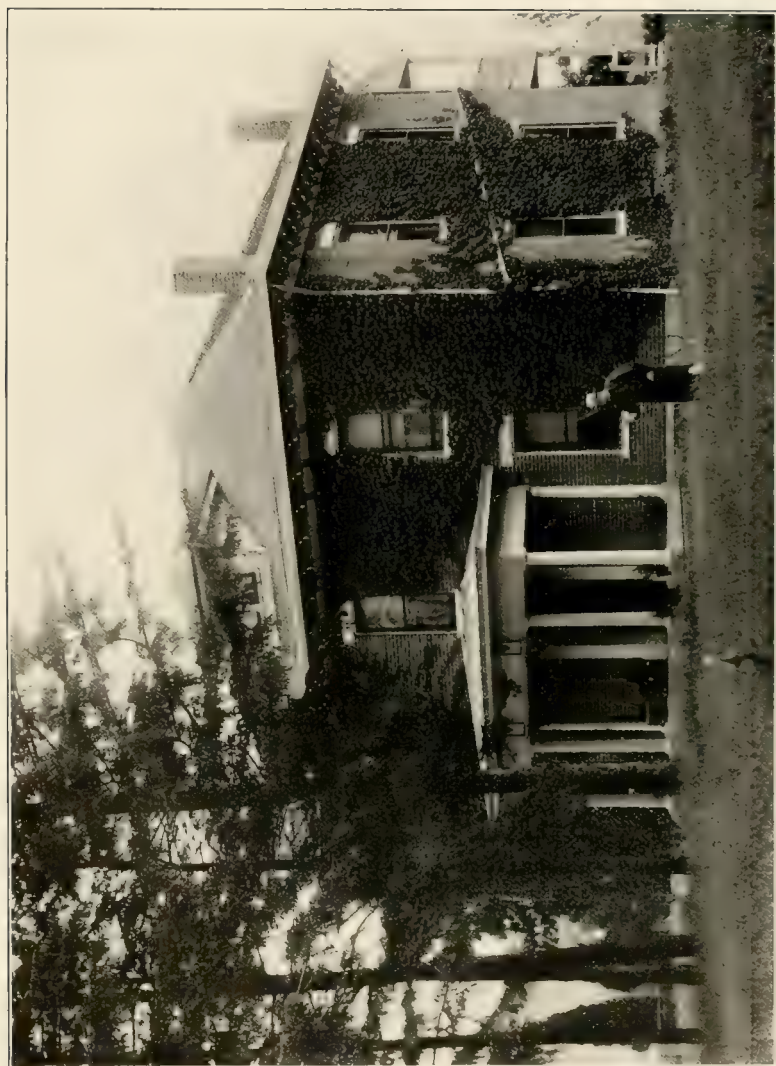
The town has three public buildings—a town hall, with a seating capacity of one thousand, a solid stone jail, with two cells, and a fire engine house. The town has recently completed four large fire cisterns, which are so located as to provide ample protection for the whole town. Four years ago there was a destructive fire in the town which burned the hotel, saloon and livery stable of John Spander, the store of J. W. Hardebeck and the dwelling house of Barney Koors. The town now has an excellent eight-man-power fire engine, which is capable of throwing water over any building in town. Edward Henninger is the present fire chief.

The town was platted on April 10, 1858, and has been incorporated for several years. The town officers for 1915 are as follow: Clerk, Will Dailey; councilmen, George Walters, first ward; Edward Henninger, second ward; Anthony Harping, third ward; marshal, John Stuehrenberg.

#### OTHER VILLAGES.

Gaynorsville is located in Marion township and, although never platted, is given a place on the county map. There are about ten families in this little village. This is merely a country trading point and its business inter-





PAROCHIAL HOUSE, MILLHOUSE.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, MILLHOUSES.





ests, which consist of a general store and blacksmith shop, are taken care of by Enoch Parker & Son.

Smyrna is also a small hamlet in Marion township, but only a small cluster of houses marks the place at present.

Layton's mill is only a voting precinct in Marion township.

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#### CLINTON TOWNSHIP.

On July 6, 1829, on the petition of Isaac Seright and others, the board of justices organized Clinton township, with the following limits: Beginning on the county line at the center of section 34, township 12, range 9; thence south to the Washington township line; thence east five miles to the center of section 21, township 11, range 10, on the south line of said section; thence north to the county line; thence west with the county line to the place of beginning (volume II, page 43).

The original limits as prescribed by the board of justices who organized this township, have remained the same with two minor exceptions. On September 7, 1829, the board of justices ordered that sections 19 and 20, township 11, range 10, be stricken off from Clinton township and attached to Washington (volume II, page 47). On May 3, 1830, the board of justices "ordered that the west half of section 21, township 11, range 10, which lies in Clinton township, be and the same is newly attached to the township of Fugit in the said county of Decatur." With these changes, the township stands today as its first boundaries were given.

The same board which ordered the organization of Clinton township, at the same meeting ordered the first election to be held in the township at the house of George McLaughlin on the last Saturday in July, 1829. This election was held for the purpose of electing two justices of the peace. Benjamin Jones was appointed election inspector. Alexander Hamilton and John Small were appointed as overseers of the poor for that year (1829). James Hudson, Robert Wilson and Joseph Lindsay were appointed as first fence viewers (volume II, page 44). In 1830, Joseph Lindsay and James Wilson were appointed as overseers of the poor.

#### SETTLEMENT.

It is impossible to determine who was the first settler in this township, but it is improbable that there was anyone with a fixed habitation there

before 1821. There were no land entries from this township during the first year after it was open for settlement, which leads to the supposition that there were people living there who wished to protect their claims to their places of residence.

The first known settler was Jesse Womack, who entered a small tract of land early in 1821. Others who came immediately afterward were John Montgomery, Thomas Craig, Daniel Crume, Joseph Jones and Joseph Weihart. Among those who came later this year were Matthew Campbell, Robert Wilson, James Carter, John Thomson, Israel Harris, Henry Glass and George Donner.

Among the other early settlers who located here and contributed to the early progress and history of the township are: Reuben Johnston, who came here from Virginia with his family, and died in 1857; David Munns, who was one of the early Kentucky pioneers; also William Ruddell, from Kentucky; Thomas Power, Robert Crawford, John Lyons, William Sefton, William Bird, Baily Johnston, Josiah Kemble, Elijah E. Smith, Peleg Wheeler, George Butcher, A. E. Rankin, D. Cramer, Benjamin Jones, Philip Martin, Edward Ricketts, Dr. Abram Carter, Gabriel Harrold, William Jones, Robert Wilson, Joseph Lindsay and Andrew J. Dale, who came here from South Carolina, are all numbered among the early settlers of the township and contributed toward its settlement and advancement.

#### EARLY MILLS.

The first grist-mill in this township was built by John and William Hamilton, two brothers from Virginia, who settled here. This mill was erected in the year 1822 and the power to run the machinery was furnished by Clifty creek. A short time after this mill was erected, another mill, which was only used for cracking corn for feed, was constructed by Thomas Lanham for William Buchanan, the proprietor. This mill was located on the South fork of Clifty creek, and was well patronized by the settlers in this locality, as meal was used more extensively for breadstuff than it is at the present time. About the same time, the first saw-mill was erected by a Mr. Douglas on the south fork of Clifty creek. This mill was well patronized and the owner was doing a thriving business, but his prosperity was to be short-lived, for he met with an accident in the mill which cost him his life. The first horse-power mill was introduced and placed in operation on the farm of Thomas Powell, near the poor farm. Mr. Powell owned and

operated this mill for a number of years, and at that time it was quite an advancement from the old form of water-power mill.

The county poor farm is located in Clinton township.

The first church in the township was built by the Christians. This was erected near the residence of Nathan P. Swails and was known as the Clifty church.

The general surface of this land is unbroken and slightly undulating and there is no great extent of broken land in the township, although it has excellent drainage from the different branches of Clifty creek which flow through the township. The land all drains to the southwest and the soil is uniform and of an equal quality. There is no other township in the county which can boast of so few acres of waste or untillable land as Clinton.

The timber furnished one of the greatest industries in this township in the early days, stave-mills being the chief consumption of this natural resource. The forests consisted chiefly of walnut, poplar, sugar, elm, burr oak, hackberry and beech, but since the timber has become scarce the energies of the settlers have been turned toward agricultural pursuits, and this is yielding equally as great results as did the timber products of old. The blue grass land in the southeastern portion of the township rivals even the famous blue grass districts of Kentucky, and has no equal in any part of the home state.

Another great asset to the farmers of this section is the North Vernon, Greensburg & Rushville railroad, which runs through the township. It enables them to place their products on the markets of the leading cities and furnishes railroad facilities for all the different lines of transportation.

The trustee of Clinton township is Henry Mozingo, and Orville Garrett is assessor.

#### SANDUSKY.

Sandusky, the only town in Clinton township, was laid out along the Michigan division of the Big Four railroad on October 7, 1882, by Olliver C. Sefton. The building of the railroad through the county has made Sandusky a shipping point of importance, especially so since it is the nearest market for most of Fugit and a part of Adams townships. The business interests of 1915 include the following: Blacksmith, Harrell & Cowan, W. O. Rozell; carpenter, A. T. Stanford, Stillman Bros., Elmer Ruddell; elevator, Sandusky Farmers Elevator Company, Jesse Anderson, manager; general store, Horace McDowell; hardware and implements, Horace McDowell; livery, Charles Ray; painter and paper hanger, Fleetwood & Seright;



saw-mill, Steward & Tilley; station agent, A. C. Thorpe; warehouse, H. C. Doles, of Clarksburg.

J. T. Stanford operates a stone crusher a short distance from the town and furnishes most of the crushed stone used on the roads in the township. In the spring of 1915 about forty of the leading farmers of the community surrounding Sandusky formed a company to operate the elevator at the town and are making extensive repairs to the building which they acquired. They intend to put in a grinding outfit and handle food stuffs of all kinds. A gas company, composed of Knox, Hall & Williams, has four wells, which furnish an abundant supply of gas for the town. They give a flat rate of one dollar a month for a stove and furnish one light. Additional lights cost fifteen cents a month. The county farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, is located a mile southwest of Sandusky. Superintendent D. A. Burroughs now has twenty-seven inmates on the farm.

Williamstown is a joint Decatur and Rush county town, and is located on the county line in Clinton township.

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#### SALT CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Salt Creek township bears the distinction of being the last township laid out in the county. It was established by the board of county commissioners of Decatur county, September 5, 1836, and, as recorded in the records of that date, its boundaries were as follow, to wit: "Beginning on the Franklin county line on the line dividing townships 10 and 11; thence west to the northwest corner of section 2, township 10, range 10; thence south to the northwest corner of section 26, township 9, range 10; thence east two miles; thence south one mile; thence east to the Ripley county line; thence north to the place of beginning." This was taken verbatim from the record books of the county commissioners (volume III, page 104), but there seems to be some discrepancy in this record, as seen by following the line of boundary, for it would not strike the Ripley county line. The error may come in supplying the name Ripley when in fact the Franklin county line was meant.

The next record which we have defining the boundary of this township is given as follows, to wit: "Beginning on the Franklin county line on the line dividing townships 10 and 11; thence west to the northwest corner of section 2, township 10, range 10; thence south five miles; thence east two miles; thence south one mile; thence east one mile; thence south one mile





JOHN HARDING.



DOUBLE LOAD OF PILES, 78 FEET LONG, CUT IN DECATUR COUNTY BY T. E. DAY AND LOADED AT NEWPOINT, FOR USE BY THE BIG FOUR RAILROAD AFTER THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1913.





to the Ripley county line; thence northeast with the Indian boundary line and north with the Franklin county line to the place of beginning."

Although the soil of Salt Creek township is not so productive as that of other subdivisions of Decatur county, its thrifty farmers, most of them of German descent, have brought the land to a state of dependable production, have erected commodious barns and substantial dwellings, so that, in most respects, Salt Creek township takes a high rank among the nine townships of Decatur county.

#### SETTLEMENT.

Robert Ross and John Harding were two of the first six men to settle in Salt Creek township. Others who made homes in this township at an early date were: James Cook, William Barclay, Parkinson Barclay, Eli Pennington (who later laid out New Pennington), Lewis Castor, Wilson Ross, William Hart, Charles McHugh, John Calicott, Robert Atte, William Walker, Milton Walker, George Osborn and John Snediker.

Salt Creek township abounded in game in the days of the early settlements, and the pioneers of this locality never had any trouble getting a supply of bear meat, but, of course, pork was a scarce article until bruin had been exterminated. Wild turkeys were seen in the vicinity of New Pennington as late as 1875.

The general character of the soil of this township is clay. However, it responds readily to scientific farming, so that, with careful attention, it produces a profitable crop every year. Salt Creek township timber is mostly oak and gum, of which a large amount has been sold for the manufacture of furniture.

The township was crossed by the Big Four railroad, from east to west, in 1853, this being one of the earliest railroads in the state. Newpoint and Smith's Crossing are located on the railroad.

The following are the present officers of Salt Creek township: Trustee, Harley S. McKee; assessor, Elza O. Walker; advisory board, William Schilling, Isaac Parmer, Sr., and Henry Travis; road supervisors, Clarence Colson, Rudolph Kramer and Taylor Ramer; justice of the peace, William Haas.

#### NEWPOINT.

The town of Newpoint is located in Salt Creek township on the Big Four railroad. It was laid out on November 11, 1859, by Ebenezer Nutting and has enjoyed a steady growth from the beginning. A struggling village

had existed at this place ever since the railroad had been built in 1854, but it was five years later before it occurred to an enterprising proprietor that it would make a good site for a town. The stone industry has always been the chief business of Newpoint, and the stone quarry of J. J. Puttmann, a mile north of town has employed more men than any other enterprise in the community. He has employed many men and has the only quarries of importance in the township.

Among the men earlier connected with the commercial life of Newpoint were: George Brown, Joel Colson, W. E. Barkley, James Hart, Warner Clark, Leander Storks, John Lewis Hilliard. On September 2, 1866, Mr. Hilliard began his long and honest career as a clerk when he sold the first order in the store of W. E. Barkley, which stood on the site of the store now owned by George W. Metz. Joel Colson made to the town of Newpoint the addition which bears his name. From its founding, Newpoint has always been the chief trading and shipping point in the township and remains so at the present time.

The town is incorporated and divided into three wards. The town clerk is Robert Carr, and John W. Snedeker officiates as marshal. A volunteer fire department is maintained, which has proven equal to every emergency thus far. Three fire cisterns, a hand-power fire engine, hooks, ladders and an ample supply of hose are kept in the town house. A stone jail takes care of such offenders of the law as need incarceration. The town is well lighted with gas, street lights being located at appropriate intervals all over the town. The Newpoint Gas, Oil and Mineral Company has ten wells in the immediate vicinity and sells its gas for fifteen cents a thousand. There is plenty of gas for both light and fuel. John Giberson owns the local telephone line and maintains a switchboard at his home, half a mile northeast of town, which connects with about seventy-five patrons. The White River Creamery Company, of Cincinnati, has a shipping station at Newpoint, in charge of Sanford S. Starks. Starks was granted a state license as milk tester by the state examining board on June 7, 1915. From forty to sixty gallons of cream are shipped daily from Newpoint to Cincinnati.

The business and professional interests of Newpoint in 1915 include the following: Bank, Newpoint State Bank; barber, Henry Wolf and James Myers; blacksmith, George Cornelius and Ephraim Deen; carpenter, Adam Hoover, James Blaire and Peter Grove; general store, H. M. Loyd, G. W. Metz, John Hoff and George Myers; grist-mill, Germany & King; harness, Benjamin Kaneve; hardware, J. J. Puttmann & Company; jeweler, E. F. Starks; livery, Fred Wolf; meat market, Fred Wolf; millinery, Mrs.

Henry Ennebrock; painter and paper hanger, Robert Moulton; physician, Harley S. McKee and Joseph Coomes; restaurant, Ruth Gouge and Frank Hooten; saloon, Peter Schuh; saw-mill, J. J. Puttmann and T. E. Day; stock buyer, Wolf & Barnard; wholesale liquor dealer, Greensburg Mercantile Company, William McWilliams, manager.

The present officers are as follow: Councilmen, George A. Redelman, Henry Ennebrock, Al Thomas; clerk, Robert Carr; treasurer, Will Thomas,

#### SMITH'S CROSSING.

Smith's Crossing is now only a flag station on the Big Four railroad. It is situated in Salt Creek township, about two miles west of Newpoint. This little hamlet was laid out, January 2, 1859, by R. S. Ward. For many years a postoffice was maintained here under the name of Wintersville, but it was discontinued with the establishment of the rural free delivery. There are only three or four houses in the place at present, and the only business interest is the store of Mrs. Edward Little.

#### OTHER VILLAGES.

There are three small places in Salt Creek township which appear on the maps of Decatur as towns, but none of them can hardly be said to deserve the title now. The first of these is Mechanicsburg, which was laid out by Robert Garrison and others, October 10, 1846. The next is New Pennington, which was laid out by Eli Pennington in 1851 and bears the founder's name. Last, but not necessarily least, comes Rossburg, which was laid out by D. Montague, founder of the town of St. Maurice, March 16, 1836.

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#### SAND CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Sand Creek township was organized by the board of justices on May 2, 1825, with the following boundaries: "Beginning at the county line on the township line dividing townships 9 and 10, range 8; thence east seven miles; thence north two miles to the line of Washington township; thence due east with the said township line to the county line; thence south (with a westerly direction) with the county line to the southwest corner of the county; thence north with the county line to the place of beginning." On



July 6, 1829, on the petition of Francis Myers, the board ordered "that sections 30 and 31 in township 10, range 9, be attached to and made a part of Sand Creek township."

Sand Creek township was formed from the southern part of Washington, and, like Washington, in its original boundaries was much larger than it is at present. As established originally, it embraced the townships of Sand Creek, Jackson, Marion and a portion of Salt Creek, but between the years 1825 and 1836 its boundaries were greatly reduced by the formation of the latter townships. The present limits of this township have not been reached through a definite location of its own boundaries, but by the boundaries of the townships which were established from its territory and bound it on three sides. The present limits are as follow: "Beginning at the Jennings county line, on the section line dividing sections 9 and 10, township 8, range 9; thence north to the Washington township line; thence west from the northeast corner of section 28, township 10, range 9, two miles; thence south two miles to the northeast corner of section 6, township 9, range 9; thence west two miles and a half to the center of section 2 on the north side thereof; thence south to the Jennings county line; thence east on the Jennings county line to the place of beginning."

As a whole, Sand Creek township is uneven and contains several kinds of soil, from rich black lands on the Sand Creek bottoms to the poor land common in Salt Creek and Marion townships. Part of the township is very hilly and broken.

#### FIRST SETTLERS.

Elijah Davis was the first settler in Sand Creek township, so far as can be ascertained. He took out a claim in 1820, the only man to do so that year. In 1821 three others bought government land and made homes for themselves in this township. They were Daniel Herron, Nat Robbins and William Robbins.

Four years later, when the township was organized, it had grown but little in population, as but nine votes were cast in the first township election held in 1825 for the office of justice of the peace. Just one-third of the male population that had reached the age of twenty-one was then willing to serve the public, there being three candidates for the office. Nat Robbins was elected.

James Holmes, John Bagley, Robert Courtney and Samuel Stevens are supposed to have settled in Sand Creek township during the same year, but if they did, they merely "squatted" until they could raise sufficient cash to

purchase government land. Other early settlers were John Robbins, Simeon Sharp, Daniel Meredith, William Schultz, John Cann and Samuel De Armond.

Samuel Stevens built a brick house in 1834 and about the same time Simeon Sharp opened a tavern where Westport now stands. Elijah Davis and John Robbins both started water-mills and some time after William Robbins built a horse-mill, so that the early settlers were not altogether dependent upon the waters of Sand creek and Millstone creek for their bread. The first church in the township was organized by Samuel Strickland, of the denomination then styled "Campbellites."

The present officers of Sand Creek township are as follow: Trustee, James Armstrong; assessor, Jesse Blauvelt; road supervisors, James L. Gaynor, first district; Ransom O. Davis, second district; Charles Brannon, third district, and James McFall; advisory board, George M. Keith, John A. Jackson, William A. Barclay; James R. Scott, justice of the peace.

#### WESTPORT.

Westport is located in Sand Creek township on the North Vernon, Greensburg & Rushville and the Chicago, Terre Haute & Eastern Railroads. This little village was laid out on March 23, 1836, by Simeon Sharp and Hockersmith Merriman, and has enjoyed a steady growth from the beginning. A marked proof of the growth is shown by the fact that it was necessary to lay out an addition in 1838 for the accommodation of people who wished to locate here. This was made by John Cann, and other additions followed soon after.

The first house was built in the town by William Shultz, who also kept the first store. Mr. Shultz seems to have been a man of many trades and callings, for he is also accredited with being the first physician in Westport. Frank Talkington was the first blacksmith to ply his trade here. John Conwell served as the first postmaster.

Westport is noted for its excellent stone quarries in close proximity to the town. The product of these quarries is a high-grade building stone, which will bear favorable comparison with that of any other section of the state. It is also used quite extensively for curb and gutter, and many car loads of crushed stone are shipped from the quarries annually. At present it is under the management of a Cincinnati corporation and bears the name of the Westport Stone Company. John Ballman, of Cincinnati, is the present superintendent and he is ably assisted by J. L. Jackson, of Westport.

The output varies from three to five carloads per day and in times of rush orders for crushed stone as much as sixty to seventy carloads extra are put out per month. This has been one of the greatest factors in making Westport among the most progressive business towns of the county.

#### BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

The business and professional interests in Westport in 1915 are as follow: Barber, Rousie Boicourt, J. N. Keith; bank, First National Bank; bakery, Westport bakery, Jacob Bacher, manager; basket maker, W. J. Richardson; blacksmith, Carl Keith; contractor, Moir and Davis, James E. Burk, Benjamin Benifield; drug store, Conwell and Harding; dentist, F. M. Davis; furniture and undertaking, J. F. Hamilton Furniture Company; general store, George B. Hendrickson, Frank Manuel, J. T. McCullough, W. T. Stott & Co.; garage, Ned Burney; grocery, Pete Barnes; hardware, Westport Hardware Company, Cox and McGinnis, managers; Whalen & Ostymer; grain company, Tyner Grain Company, Glen Gartin, manager; hotel, Joe Tucker, Eva Lowe; harness, C. E. Pierce; insurance, Levi Burns, T. W. Robinson; jeweler, H. J. Riedenbach; livery barn, Albert Robbins; milliner store, Etta Boicourt; meat market, J. H. Retherford; optician, J. M. Burk; paper hanger, Bert Ross, E. A. Shaw; physician, O. F. Welch, Charles Wood, J. A. C. Reiley, J. P. Borroughs; plasterer, Samuel Grayson; plumber, Walter Waterman; restaurant and confectionery, H. D. Richardson, William McCullough; shoe cobbler, B. P. Rogers; tailor, Rogers; stock buyer, Mr. Tyner; undertaker, J. F. Hamilton; veterinary, Claude Keith; wagon maker and wood worker, Frank Pope; watchmaker, J. M. Burk; Westport Stone Company; Westport Amusement Company, Alex Cornutt, manager.

There are few towns in this section of the country which present in their business associations a more reliable and intelligent class of men, or whose enterprise is more clearly rewarded by an established and growing trade, than Westport. Although its population may not be so large as other towns with which it competes, yet its aggregated commercial transactions will scarcely be found excelled by any town of its class in the state. It is accommodated by two railroads which give it an excellent outlet to the different commercial centers. J. L. Houston acts as agent for the Big Four and Charles Hunt serves in a like capacity for the Chicago, Terre Haute & Southeastern (Southern Indiana). W. S. Sanders is the postmaster and three rural routes serve the country people with mail from Westport. The

*Courier Independent*, managed by J. M. Keith, furnishes the community with local items of interest and also aids in every way possible in boosting the interests of the town.

The town was incorporated in 1859 for civic and school purposes. The following are the present town officials: R. D. Patrick, clerk; Ed Whalen, treasurer; J. H. Retherford, Joe Tucker and Carl Davis, councilmen; school board, John Morris, president; Benjamin Gunder, secretary; Edward Davis, treasurer. A volunteer fire department is maintained, with E. G. Davis as chief, and has rendered excellent service on every occasion which has arisen that demanded their service. A hand-power fire engine, hose truck, hooks, ladders and an ample supply of hose are kept in the town engine house. In 1910 the town suffered a very disastrous fire which destroyed a hotel and livery barn, hardware store, opera house, millinery store and dwelling. The total loss was estimated at fifteen thousand dollars, but this fire-swept district was soon rebuilt with modern and much more substantial buildings. In 1913 the corporation purchased a town hall of the Red Men. The second floor is used for meetings, but the first floor is used for the fire apparatus.

Westport has a Standard Oil station, which is under the management of George Kelley. At present the town has a population of eight hundred.

Recently a Commercial Club has been formed, to promote the civic and moral improvement of the town and also aid in any commercial enterprise which may desire to locate here.

#### LETTS.

The village of Letts, situated on the Michigan division of the Big Four railroad, was laid out on September 30, 1882, by Joab Stout and others. Letts is one of the late towns laid out in this county and has had a very prosperous existence in its thirty-three years of life. It is situated in the center of a rich farming land and each year its exports in grain are enormous. Recently two new store buildings were erected, which add to the prosperous business atmosphere of the town.

The business interests of Letts in 1915 are as follow: Barber, H. L. Williams; blacksmith, J. E. Carder; bank, Letts State Bank; contractor, Moore & Crise; elevator, Moore & Crise; garage, J. E. Carder, also gasoline station and sub-agency for Buick cars; general merchandise, W. A. Taggart & Company, Letts Merchandise Company, John McCammon, manager; hardware, Letts Hardware Company, K. L. Adams, manager; hotel, J. Henry



Gibson & Sons; livery and feed barn, J. Henry Gibson & Sons; harness shop, Samuel Ketcham; physician, J. A. Welch; restaurant, Alice Gardner.

The postmaster is George W. Davis. The railroad station is known by the name of Letts Corner and O. E. Hedrick is the agent. Letts is supplied with ice by the Meek Ice Company, from Greensburg, which makes trips once a week. The population of the town is estimated at three hundred.

#### HARRIS.

No town in Decatur county has experienced a greater change in the past quarter of a century than Harris City, which was once the center of the largest blue-limestone quarry of stratified rock in the state, if not in the United States. From this quarry have been shipped thousands of car loads of stone and when it was in the height of its prosperity it frequently turned out more than a hundred car loads of stone a week. Three hundred people were dependent on the operation of the quarry and the busy hum of industry which pervaded the place was an apparent indication that the place would one day become a town of some importance.

But today it is all changed. The quarry has closed down; the few remaining houses are nearly all deserted; the once neat homes of the thrifty German laborers are surrounded with sweet clover; the din of the hammer is stilled; the cheery ring of the blacksmith's anvil no longer greets the ear; the towering derricks, the smoking engines, the hurrying feet of the hundreds of employees—all have disappeared. Where once massive blocks of stone were piled waiting for the skilled hands of the workmen, may now be seen a waving field of fragrant sweet clover.

This is the simple narrative of the energy and enthusiasm of one man—and this is the story:

Morgan's men were riding through the counties of southern Indiana in July, 1863, and some of them chanced to pass by what is now Harris City. One of these same men must have been looking for a future place to locate, or at least one of them returned to Decatur county immediately after the close of the Civil War and made a close examination of the spot which had attracted his attention on that hot sultry day in July, 1863.

This man was B. B. Harris, the founder of the town which bore his name and the man who was responsible for the opening of the quarry which was destined to become one of the largest of its kind in the whole country. By 1869 Harris had the quarry opened and was turning out considerable stone, although he was badly handicapped because he was so far from a

railroad. However, the possibilities of the quarry were so apparent that he had little difficulty in organizing a hundred thousand dollar company in 1873. The company made Harris president and manager and five years later the business had reached such dimensions that it was deemed imperative to build a spur of track to Greensburg, six miles away. The right of way, the building of the track and the purchase of a railroad engine entailed an expenditure of fifty thousand dollars, but the increased business brought about by the better shipping facilities was sufficient to pay for the heavy outlay. The company had secured a contract for a large amount of stone to be used in the new state house at Indianapolis and this fact was largely responsible for the building of the railroad to Greensburg. In fact, they could not have taken the contract without so doing. At the same time they were furnishing stone for the United States custom house at Cincinnati. Three thousand carloads of stone went out from this quarry for the state house and six thousand for the Cincinnati custom house. At least ten thousand car loads of this stone was sold to Proctor & Gamble for their immense soap factory at Ivorydale, a suburb of Cincinnati. The company also furnished the stone for the abutments of the Chesapeake & Ohio bridge at Cincinnati and the stone for hundreds of other railroad bridges. The stone for the cells in the Mansfield, Ohio, reformatory were cut in this quarry and smoothed with chilled shot in the local yards. There is no machinery which will smooth this stone on account of its excessive hardness, and all the stone had to be smoothed by hand.

The company built thirty-seven houses for its employees and erected a large three-story boarding house which would accommodate two hundred men. The business prospered until the latter part of the nineties, but the hard times of 1897, combined with the poor management of Harris, forced the company into bankruptcy. In the following year W. C. Patton took charge of the quarry and operated it until 1904, when S. B. Eward became the sole owner and manager. Eward had been connected with the company since the beginning and was thoroughly familiar with every detail of the business, having for many years been the treasurer. Eward continued to operate the quarry until his death, December 31, 1914, although very little stone was quarried for a few years before his death. The use of cement had made such heavy inroads into the business that the sale had dropped sharply away. In addition, the equipment was getting old, the track was too light to stand the heavy freight cars which had come into use, and, in short, the quarry was closed for the simple reason that it had ceased to be a profitable enterprise with the present demand and prices. The quarry and

the one hundred and fifty-three acres of the old company are now the property of L. D. Eward, of Greensburg. In 1914 thirty-one of the houses of Harris were moved away. The store is owned by Mr. Eward, after having passed through several hands in the past quarter of a century. What the future of the quarry may be is entirely problematical; the stone is still there in abundance, only eleven acres of stone having been removed. In order to put the quarry in operation again it would be necessary to rebuild the railroad track to the quarry switch, a distance of four and a half miles, and install a complete equipment for getting out the stone. Undoubtedly the quarry will be opened some day, but only the future can tell when the blacksmith's anvil will again ring. Until then the fragrant sweet clover will reign undisturbed and the silence will be broken only by the wayfarer who stops to inquire what village once occupied this picturesque spot.

#### SARDINA CROSSING.

Sardina Crossing is a flag stop on the Big Four Railroad. A postoffice was maintained here for a number of years and bore the name of Harpers, but the rural free delivery has long since taken its place and at present nothing remains to mark the town.

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#### WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

On May 14, 1822, the county commissioners established Washington township with the following limits: Beginning at the county line on the line dividing townships 10 and 11; thence west with said line to the southwest corner of section 35, range 10, township 11; thence north with the line dividing sections 34 and 35 to the southwest corner of section 26; thence west with the section line to the southwest corner of section 28, range 10, township 11; thence north with said section line to the southwest corner of section 16, range 10, township 11; thence west with the section line to the southwest corner of section 14, range 9, township 11; thence south with the line dividing sections 22 and 23 to the southwest corner of section 23, range 9, township 11; thence west to the southwest corner of section 21, range 9, township 11; thence south with the line dividing sections 28 and 29 to the township line dividing townships 10 and 11; thence west with the said line to the county line; thence south with the county line to the southwest corner of said county; thence with the county line to the place of beginning.

Washington township as originally laid out embraced the entire southern half of the county and contained more square miles of territory than Adams and Fugit combined. It comprised the territory from which the townships of Washington, Sand Creek, Marion, Jackson, Clay and a part of Salt Creek were later formed.

On May 2, 1825, the board of justices re-defined the limits of Washington township as follow: Beginning at the county line on the township line dividing townships 10 and 11, range 11; thence west on the township line to the southwest corner of section 35; thence north one mile; thence west two miles; thence north one mile; thence due west seven miles to the northwest corner of section 29, range 9, township 11; thence south six miles to the southwest corner of section 20, range 9, township 10; thence due east to the county line; thence with the county line to the place of beginning (volume I, page 136).

But this was not to be the final boundary of this township, for, in 1836, Salt Creek township was organized and Washington underwent another change of boundary. The limits of the township as permanently defined are as follow: "Beginning at the northwest corner of section 29, township 11, range 8; thence south six miles on the section line dividing sections 29 and 30, township 11, range 8, to the northwest corner of section 29, township 10, range 9; thence east nine miles to the Salt Creek township line; thence north on the section line dividing sections 22 and 23, township 10, range 10, to the northeast corner of section 34, township 9, range 10; thence west two miles; thence north two miles; thence south one mile; thence west to the place of beginning."

Washington was one of the three original townships laid out by the board of county commissioners of Decatur county, when it held its first meeting at the home of Thomas Hendricks, May 14, 1822. The two other townships were Fugit and Adams. The board fixed the first day of June as the date for holding a township election for selection of two justices of the peace and fixed the place for holding it at the residence of Thomas Hendricks. Richard J. Hall was appointed inspector.

This township is located in almost the exact center of the county and contains fifty-four square miles of territory. According to the census report of 1910, the entire population of the township, exclusive of the city of Greensburg, was one thousand four hundred and eight. The entire township is underlaid with a bed of limestone, which has proved of utmost value in the construction of highways.

On account of the good roads, the productivity of the soil, and nearness



to the county seat and shipping facilities, land in Washington township has always commanded a high price in the real estate market. Most of the farms have good buildings and are well improved. As a result, farms frequently sell at one hundred and fifty dollars an acre and even higher figures.

#### FIRST SETTLERS.

The first settlers of the township were Thomas Hendricks, Elijah Davis and Benjamin Drake. Thomas Ireland, Samuel Logan and Samuel Houston came about the same time. Houston was a surveyor and is supposed to have been the first justice of the peace in Washington township. He died a few years after the organization of the county.

Hendricks himself was a surveyor and had surveyed the greater portion of Decatur county for the federal government in 1820, when engineers had been sent out to run lines through the "New Purchase." His assistants were Houston, the two Stewarts, Logan and Sam Gageby. He was by all odds the leading spirit in the new community, as he came of stock richly endowed by nature for leadership. He was a brother of William Hendricks, second governor of Indiana, and an uncle of Thomas A. Hendricks, later vice-president of the United States. He built the first house, conducted the first tavern therein, and later opened the first hotel in the county on the site of the present DeArmond Hotel. He entered the first land in Washington township in October, 1820.

About the same time, Rev. James Lathrop, a Vermonter, who had reached Dearborn county, entered land in Washington township and then went back to Dearborn county to bring on his family to the new settlement. While making preparations for his removal, he fell ill and died. The responsibilities of the head of the family of ten children then fell upon his son, Ezra, father of Rev. James B. Lathrop.

Ezra Lathrop, with a younger brother and a hired man, then came to Washington county and made preparations for caring for the remainder of the family, when it should arrive. In the spring of 1821 the widow and family came to Decatur county and settled on land that had been entered by her husband and improved, through erection of a log cabin, by her sons.

Next among the early settlers came Henry H. Talbott, a young Virginian, who promptly made love to and married one of the five Hendricks daughters. The two Stewart brothers had previously formed matrimonial alliances with the Hendricks family. Talbott possessed an excellent education and was unusually adept with a pen. He was clerk of the county for a

long period, and his early records are still considered marvels in penmanship.

Talbott was an unusually talented representative of a type that made its presence felt in each new community in the days of county organization. They were the seekers after office, and early records of Indiana counties show that it was a very common custom for politicians failing to land jobs, in one county when it was organized, to quit the county and try their luck again in the next one organized. Talbott, however, had not yet attained his majority when he came to Washington township. Talbott and Robert Murphy, who came with him, boarded at the Hendricks house. Talbott brought some goods with him and started a store, which may have been the first one in the township, although this distinction is also claimed for a man named Riley. The next newcomer was David Gageby, who had resided at Vernon. He started a cabinet shop on the northwest corner of the public square. He was later joined by his brother James. David then turned his attention exclusively to carpenter work, leaving the management of the shop to his brother. Other early settlers were Martin and John Jamison, hatters. In 1821, William Lloyd settled on what is now called the Madison road, about two miles south of Greensburg. He brought with him from Jefferson county, where he had stopped a few months, a number of hogs and cattle. Rattlesnakes killed off a good many of the cattle and a good share of the hogs wandered away into the woods and were lost.

Thomas Perry emigrated from Bath county, Kentucky, to Washington township in 1823 and settled four miles east of Greensburg. Samuel and John McConnell, two other Kentuckians, also came about the same time. Both were powerful and muscular and possessed great physical courage. It is related that, while living "on the dark and bloody ground," John McConnell was once beset by two Indians. He whipped them both and took away from one a very business-like war club, which he preserved as a trophy of the encounter.

Others who found homes for themselves in Washington township before the organization of the county were Rev. John Strange, John House, Samuel Anderson, Jephtha Conner, William Bell, Daniel McCormick, Joseph English, John Messinger and David Messinger. Most of these settled in the southeastern part of the township. Still others who settled in the township about this time were: Abraham Garrison, Thomas Chinn, Benjamin Walker, Benjamin Drake, Otha White, Paris Aldrich, George Hopkins, Robert Elder, John Hazelrigg, Matthew, William and James Elder, Thomas Doles, John and Elijah Davis and John Robbins.

Before John McConnell settled here, the land he later occupied was

held by a squatter named Gartin. William Ross, first sheriff of the county, and William Parks, a member of the first board of county commissioners, were among the earliest to arrive.

Washington township has two villages marked on the map. The first of these is McCoy, which was platted on August 11, 1871, by J. C. Adams, but this failed to materialize and at present nothing remains to give semblance to a town. Quarry Switch was the point where the switch from Harris connected with the Big Four. At this point the Big Four branches, the Columbus, Hope & Greensburg branch going west and the Michigan branch going south.

The officers of Washington township are as follow: Trustee, Charles S. Williams; assessor, Henry C. Snell; advisory board, Dan S. Perry, Joseph B. Kitchen, Charles I. Ainsworth; board of supervisors, P. L. Doles, Oliver A. McCoy and Nathan Vandivier; justices of the peace, William W. Dixon and Thomas W. Hamilton; constables, William Dorsey and Reuben Smalley.

## CHAPTER VI.

### THE CITY OF GREENSBURG.

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#### SONG OF AN "INLAND TOWN."

Apropos of the Flood of 1913.

If I could write a poem like Jim Riley ust to write,  
If I could ketch his rhymin' scheme in which the words unite  
With a movin' kind o' music that'll start your sluggish blood—  
I would sing a song of Greensburg where we didn't have no flood.  
The scen'ry 'long ole Gas Creek don't compare with Brandywine,  
And we're glad the bloomin' Wabash and Ohio, broad and fine,  
And the other ragin' rivers are miles and miles away—  
Ruther be an "inland town"—kind o' like it thataway.

A little taste o' trouble 'mong our neighbors, left and right,  
Helps us 'preciate our home town more'n oratory might.  
When the trains are kind o' backward and we're missin' half our mail,  
When the juice is off the cable and the rust is on the rail,  
Then we realize the blessin's and the comfort's that we've got—  
There may be places just as good, but there's heaps o' them that's not.  
We hev counted all our noses and we've called our little roll.  
And there's nary one a missin', not a single bloomin' soul.  
Now the streams are in their channels and the trains are comin' back,  
And the juice has hit the trolley and the rust is off the track.

—*Smiley Fowler.*

The original plat of Greensburg was located on the southeast quarter of section 2, township 10 north, range 9 east. This tract was entered by Thomas Hendricks on October 27, 1820, and there is little doubt but that this shrewd Yankee selected this particular tract because he thought it would be near the center of a county, which would be organized within the the next few years. At that time the territory now within Decatur county was a part of Delaware county, then unorganized. Franklin county had



civil and criminal jurisdiction over this part of Delaware county, and all marriage licenses and town plats are found recorded in the court house at Brookville up until Decatur county was organized, in the spring of 1822.

Greensburg was laid out on August 26, 1822, by John B. Potter, and, so tradition says, was named, at the request of Mrs. Thomas Hendricks, in honor of her old home town in Pennsylvania. An interesting story is told regarding the naming of the town. Mrs. Hendricks had four charming daughters, all unmarried, and the question of the selection of the name for the new town was left to a vote of the men of the town, most of whom were unmarried. Seventeen of these men were young unmarried fellows and the desire to stand in the good graces of the four handsome daughters was the decisive factor in the selection of the name of Greensburg.

The act providing for the organization of the county made provision for a commission of five men to locate the county seat, and this commission reported on June 14, 1822, that they had selected Greensburg as the seat of justice. Thus the hopes of Hendricks were realized and the first settler had the satisfaction of knowing that he had been fortunate enough to enter the tract on which the future county seat was to be located. Unfortunately, records are not available which will disclose the early history of the town. It takes no stretch of the imagination to picture the log cabins which clustered around the public square. In fact, it was not until 1860 that the last log house on the public square was razed. It stood on the west side of the square, north of the alley, and had been occupied for many years by W. T. Green as a chair factory. The lot is now occupied by the meat market of McCormick & Richey.

It is interesting to note the prices paid for the first lots sold in the embryonic city. On July 28, 1822, the county board of justices appointed John D. Potter "to proceed immediately to laying off the town of Greensburg, to-wit: Public square in the center and lots extending two squares north, two squares east and two squares west." He laid off sixty-four lots, eighty by one hundred and sixty feet. He was ordered to have thirty-five acres grubbed, although the persons doing this work had to agree to wait one year for their pay. The sale of lots took place on the first Monday of September, 1822, and on that date thirty-six lots were sold, most of them being around the public square, although a few were sold on Broadway, Franklin and North streets. The highest price paid for a single lot was the one now occupied by the DeArmond hotel, the drug store of Joseph Moss and Eubanks' grocery. Thomas Hendricks bought this lot for one hundred and twenty-one dollars. The cheapest lot brought twelve dollars and forty-six

cents and is now occupied by Dr. J. H. Alexander on East North street. The lot on which Col. Thomas Green's home stands brought twenty-four dollars, thirty-seven and one-fourth cents. The lot occupied by Wirt Woodfill's store, the Kessler bakery, the Habig real estate office and the Knights of Pythias block was sold to Barlow Aldrich for eighty and a half dollars. However, he repented of this rash act in bidding so liberally and refused to give a note for the same. This lot was later sold at a private sale. The thirty-six lots sold on this first day brought one thousand, five hundred and seventy-two dollars and eighty-one and one-fourth cents. The records disclose the fact that not one of the lots is in the hands of any of the heirs of the man who bought it at this sale. It was not until the May term, 1823, of the county board that Thomas Hendricks received the residue of the thirty dollars, forty and one-fourth cents which he charged the board for surveying the town and for whiskey which he furnished the agents on the days of the sale of the lots.

#### EARLY GROWTH.

The town had a steady growth from the beginning, and, on February 4, 1837, fifteen years after it was laid out, it was incorporated by an act of the Legislature. James Blair, Caleb Luther, Isaac House, John Thomson, James Freeman, James Lusk and William B. Ewing were appointed to serve as trustees until January, 1838. The legislative act further provided that tippling houses should not be licensed for less than three nor more than ten dollars a year.

From a local paper of 1844, it has been ascertained that the most prominent business concerns of Greensburg at that time were as follow: D. Stewart & Sons, drugs and groceries; A. G. Stout & Company, general store; W. P. & J. F. Stevens, dry goods; Henry Sefton, plow maker; Lathrop & Cooley, hat factory; J. & W. W. Freeman, general merchants; Bryan & Hueston, Forsyth & Gilham, Hall & Callen, tailors; John Mackey, saddler; Belmont & Ricketts, cabinet makers; Robinson & Houser, carriage builders; I. T. Gibson, grocery; J. S. Scobey, J. & S. W. Robinson and S. Overturf, attorneys. A gazeteer of 1845 credits Greensburg with a population of twelve hundred and says that the flourishing town had seven blacksmith shops, employing a total of seventeen men; four wagon shops, employing ten men; four shoe shops, with eight men; two cabinet shops; two tan yards and two carding machines.

## QUEER REGULATIONS.

Some ludicrous ordinances have been gleaned from the old records of Greensburg. In 1857, an ordinance was passed limiting the speed of all vehicles to four miles an hour, and it appears to have been more rigorously enforced than the speed laws of today. The records disclose one citizen who drew a fine of one dollar for venturing to drive at a perilous speed of more than four miles an hour down the main street. This ordinance soon disappeared, however, and the citizens were free to travel on the streets at a more rapid pace. In 1861 an ordinance forbade owners of hogs to permit them to run at large unless they had rings in their snouts. Old residents tell how the pigs of the citizens around the public square rooted for grub worms in the court house yard. Convenient mud holes were provided on the streets around the public square for the pleasure of the hogs. In 1862, Marshal Eudaily took up some hogs belonging to G. B. Roszell for not wearing the required rings in their snouts and advertised the ringless porkers for sale. Before the day of the sale, however, the owner slipped the hogs out of town, and for a time the city meditated bringing suit.

## INCORPORATION.

Greensburg was incorporated as a city in 1859, and the first city election resulted as follows: Mayor, R. B. Thomson; clerk, F. M. Weadon; treasurer, B. H. Harney; assessor, Amos Sparks; engineer, D. Batterton; marshal, George Pilling; councilmen: first ward, D. Lovett and Thomas Sefton; second ward, D. Moss and I. T. Phares; third ward, J. A. Boyer and Henry Doles; school trustee, B. W. Wilson.

The corporation has grown steadily from year to year since that time and fully merits the title of city. As its railroad facilities have improved, factories of various kinds have been located in the city, and today thousands of dollars are paid out weekly to workmen in a score or more establishments. The seven thousand people who claim Greensburg as their home are justly proud of its industrial position, of its schools and churches, its well-managed public utilities, its enterprising merchants and the general high standard of citizenship which prevails.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Greensburg fire department was organized in 1874, with Arthur Hutchison serving as the first chief. This was a volunteer company, made up of three hundred men, who served without any remuneration for their services. A hand-power engine and one thousand feet of leather hose were purchased for six thousand dollars. Later, each volunteer fireman who was a property holder was exempt from taxes to the value of seven dollars and fifty cents, but non-property holders received nothing for their services.

Some years later a horse was purchased to pull the hose reel, but the hook-and-ladder was still pulled by hand. After the city waterworks was installed in 1889, the engine was disbanded and a new wagon and hose were purchased.

The fire chiefs who have served since Mr. Hutchison are as follow: D. C. Elder, Ralph Buckley, W. I. Johnson, W. S. Harvey, James Randall, W. I. Johnson and the present incumbent, Joseph Kelly. Tom Morgan drove the first team and he was followed by Dick Morgan, William Weathers. Bill Dwire drove the hose reel wagon and was followed by Bud Alyea, Bud Short and Link Beeson. The present drivers are James Robbins, driver of the hook-and-ladder wagon, and Robert Alexander, driver of the hose wagon. These men stay in the fire-engine house and receive sixty dollars per month. Mr. Isaacs was the first engineer and was followed by Mat Jackson, Billy Tussey and William Kirkpatrick, who served until the waterworks was put in.

The present volunteer fire department consists of the chief, assistant chief and sixteen members of the squad. The chief receives one hundred and twenty-five dollars per year for his services, the assistant chief receives seventy-five dollars and the members of the squad receive sixty dollars. A complete list of the fires is kept. From 1882 until 1902, there were two hundred and forty fires. The year 1893 had the greatest number in any single year. There were twenty-four in that year, seven of which came in August, two on the 10th and two on the 11th.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The police department in Greensburg began with one marshal, who, alone, kept the quiet and peace of the town for a number of years. Later, another man was added to the force and two men served in the capacity until 1904. George Dickey was the first chief, with four men under his



charge. He began his term as chief in 1906, and served for four years, although he was on the force for eight years. W. I. Johnson, the present chief, was appointed by the mayor in 1910. John Loudon is the day policeman, who assists the chief. James Underwood and Harry Lacey serve as night men at the present time. The headquarters of the police force are located in the city hall.

#### WATERWORKS.

The Greensburg waterworks was organized in 1889, and the plant was completed in 1890. The Greensburg waterworks is a private corporation, with the following officers: David A. Meyer, president; Harry Emmert, vice-president and general manager; J. B. Kitchin, secretary and treasurer; Will H. Robbins and W. W. Woodfill, who complete the board of directors.

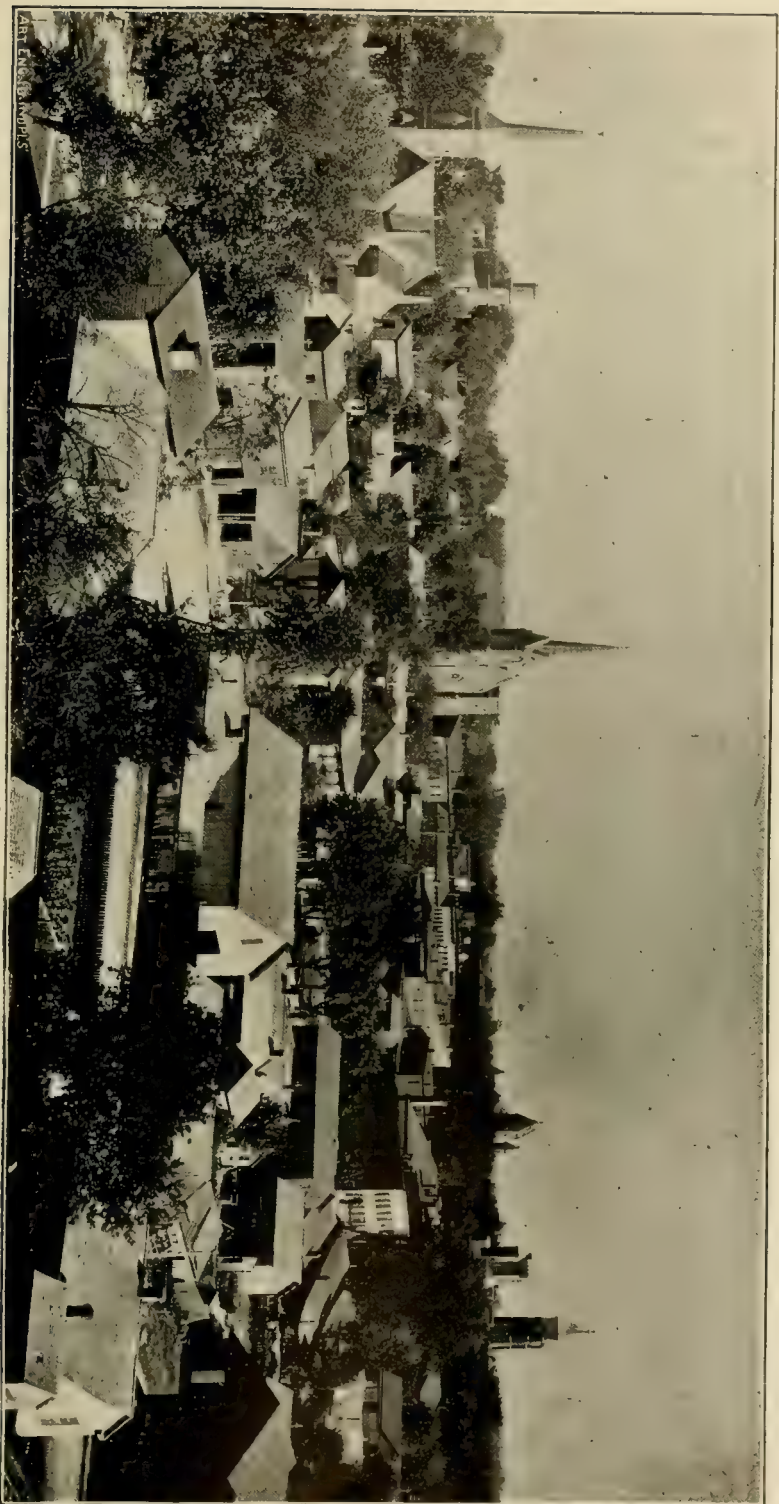
The water is taken from thirty wells, which are the property of this company. The entire cost of the plant is placed at two hundred thousand dollars. Two large reservoirs, with a capacity of one million gallons, are provided in case of fire and also to insure a surplus supply. There are eighteen miles of mains, which cover the entire town and furnish water for private use and also for factories, railroads, etc. A direct-pumping system is used and two pressure pumps, with one and one-half million gallons capacity per day, respectively, have been installed. This company furnishes its patrons with water at a flat rate or by meter.

#### STREET PAVING.

The first street paving in Greensburg was done in 1909, when Main street was paved with brick throughout its entire length of one and one-eighth miles. An interesting fact concerning the paving of this street relates to that part traversed by the interurban traction line. The track had been laid several years previously, but there seems to have been nothing in the franchise which they got from the city of Greensburg to compel them to pave their own tracks. Neither was the traction company compelled to do any repairing along their right of way. In 1913, Broadway, Franklin and part of North streets were paved with tarvia. The other streets of the city are well graded and macadamized.

#### CITY HALL.

The Greensburg city hall is located on the west side of South Broadway, in the first block off the public square. It is a brick structure and was



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF GREENSBURG, 1894.



erected in 1874 at a cost of eight thousand dollars. It is two stories in height, the first floor being devoted to the fire department and the second floor to various city offices. The mayor, chief of police and city clerk have private rooms, while there are bedrooms for the drivers of the fire-trucks. The largest room is the council chamber, which also serves as a city court room.

SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

Greensburg began the installation of a sewerage system several years ago and has added to it as the corporation limits were extended and the population increased. Owing to the fact that the city is not on a water-way, it has been compelled to provide an artificial means for the disposal of its sewerage. This is done in what is known as a disposal plant, which was installed in 1906-7, at a cost of eighteen thousand dollars, and has proven very satisfactory. The disposal plant takes care of the sewerage by automatic syphons, and for this reason the plant does not need the constant attention of an attendant. The street commissioner, who has general charge of the plant, makes daily trips to it in order to see that it is working properly.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY IN 1915.

Abstractors—P. T. Lambert, J. H. Parker.

Agricultural Implements—Bonner, Hart & Ryan; H. O. Craig & Company.

Art Studio—H. M. Aultman, J. W. Beck.

Attorneys—T. E. Davidson, J. K. Ewing, Oscar G. Miller, Goddard & Craig, E. E. Hite, Tremain & Turner, Lewis A. Harding, William F. Robbins, Osborn & Hamilton, J. H. Parker, M. C. Jenkins, F. Gates Ketchum, Roy E. Glidewell.

Auctioneers—Earl Storms, A. F. Eubank, Earl Gartin.

Automobile Dealers—E. E. Arbuckle, Roy Privett, Mrs. C. C. Low, Harlan Overleese, Miss Anna Stewart, E. C. Phelps.

Auto Garage—Goyert's Rapid Garage and Auto Agency, Frank McCracken, Roy Privett, A. P. Powell.

Automobile Radiator Company—Take-Apart Radiators.

Bakeries—Gem Bakery, Henry Kabey, Zoellner Bakery, F. Kessler.

Banks—Citizens' National, Greensburg National, Third National, Union Trust Company.

Barber Shops—George O. Baumgartner, W. E. Golay, W. F. Martin, W. S. Meadows, J. F. Strausburger, James Andrews.



- Bazaar Stores—The Fair, Morris Five-and-Ten-Cent Store.  
Bicycles and Sundries—Albert Gilham, L. N. Marlow.  
Bill Posters—Fred Seitz & Sons.  
Billiard Rooms—DeArmond Hotel, James Ford, Pierson Cigar Store.  
Blacksmiths—C. F. Brown, Brodie & Ricketts, S. E. Cline, Wade Coil, Hiram Collins, William Espy, Charles Ferris, Arthur Terrell.  
Boiler Works—Joseph L. Luchte.  
Bottling Works—Michael O'Conner.  
Bowling Alley—Pierson Cigar Company.  
Brick Manufacturers—W. H. Isgrigg & Son.  
Buggies and Carriages—Haas & Son, Isaac Layton, George Montgomery.  
Building and Loan Associations—Greensburg Building and Loan Association, Workmen's Building and Loan Association.  
Building Material—Jones Lumber Company, Pulse & Porter, Strickland & Trester.  
Cab and Transfer Lines—Big Four Livery, Charles Beeson, Powell & Son.  
Carriage Painter—Edward Roberts.  
Cement and Drain Tile—Greensburg Commercial Club, Allen Brothers.  
Chiropractor—Dr. H. Dennis.  
Cigar Manufacturers—William Oliver, Harry Suttles, Erdman & Sons.  
Cigar Stores—John Ford, Pierson Cigar Company.  
Clothing—Carter & Company, Huber Clothing Company, Ironclad Clothing Company, J. M. Woodfill's Sons.  
Coal Dealers—D. M. Blackmore, Ewing & McKee, R. S. Meek & Sons, Clifford Jones.  
Concrete Building Blocks—F. W. Willey.  
Contractors—Allen Brothers, Barringer & Tumilty, Edward Dille, James Duncan, W. H. Isgrigg & Son, Joseph Kelley, M. McCormack, Pulse & Porter, J. A. Roszell, Smith Brothers, Williams & Son.  
Dentists—Orlando Burns, F. C. Eddelman, A. E. Gilchrist, A. O. Hall, H. S. Hopkins, C. A. Kuhn, E. D. McLaughlin, R. J. Russell.  
Drugs—J. H. Batterton, Henry & Company, Magee's Pharmacy, Joseph S. Moss, St. John & Guthrie.  
Dry Goods—Dalmbert & Company, The Enterprise, George W. Magee, Minear Dry Goods Company, W. W. Woodfill.  
Electric Company—Greensburg Electric and Gas Company.  
Express Companies—Adams, American.

Feed Dealers—D. M. Blackmore, Nading Elevator Company, J. M. Hornung & Son.

Florists—Ira Clark & Company, W. C. Konzelman, R. Burtsch.

Flour Mills—Garland Milling Company, Hornung Mills.

Foundries—Greensburg Foundry and Machine Works.

Funeral Directors—Kirby Bros., E. G. Schultz & Company, Eugene Rankin.

Furniture Dealers—Woodward & Christian. E. A. Rankin, E. G. Schultz & Company, Styers & Son.

Gas Companies—Citizens Gas and Supply Company, Greensburg Gas and Electric Company, Muddy Fork Gas Company, Sand Creek Gas and Oil Company.

Groceries—Fred Wetzler, Bee Hive Cash Grocery Company, Crooks, D. A. Morris, Woods & Gray, A. L. Everhart, Golden Rule Store, Louis Huber, Linegar Brothers, James Littell, Samuel V. Littell, J. C. Marshall, New York Grocery, People's Grocery, Robert Huber, Sherman Doles, Littell & Stewart, Sturges & Wilson, Max Penn, Norman Eubanks.

Groceries (wholesale)—W. H. Robbins & Company.

Hardware—Bonner, Hart & Ryan, Corbett & Rohe, Barnard, Garver & Shively.

Hair Dresser—Mrs. James Eaton, Mrs. A. J. Kendall.

Harness—J. Haas & Son, James H. Randall, Charles Woods.

Hardwood Lumber—E. E. Doles, N. G. Swails, Frank Donnell.

Horse Buyers—J. H. Christian, Hunter & Crews, Carl Swift.

Hotels—Cottage, DeArmond, Espy House, Portland.

Hides and Furs—Samuel Levenstein, Weaver & Company.

Ice Cream and Confectionery—John Cosmas, Frank S. Kabey, American Candy Kitchen, George Kessler.

Ice Cream Manufacturer—Link & Kabey.

Ice Manufacturers—Meek Ice Company.

Insurance Agencies—Albert Morgan, Mrs. C. C. Lowe, A. Habig, A. L. Howard, Miller & Ryan, J. H. Parker, Charles Zoller, Patrons of Husbandry, Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company, Mendenhall & Grant.

Jewelers—George W. Clemons, J. W. Owens, Philip H. Spohn, C. H. Thomson & Company, C. D. Tillson, C. B. James.

Junk Dealers—Samuel Levenstein, W. H. Weaver & Company.

Justices of the Peace—W. W. Dixon, C. E. Shields.

Job Printing—Charles Childs, All City Papers.

Livery Barns—Applegate & Parker, Big Four Livery and Feed Barn, J. F. Clemens, George S. Littell, Moss House Livery.

Loans and Rentals—William Flemming, A. Habig, L. E. Laird, P. T. Lambert, Oscar G. Miller, J. H. Parker, G. M. Thompson, Charles Zoller, Frank Ford.

Loans and Chattels—Capital Loan Company.

Lumber Yards—Jones Lumber Company, Pulse & Porter.

Machine Shops—Joseph L. Luchte, Greensburg Foundry and Machine Works.

Meat Markets—Louis R. Bobrink, H. Kammerling, McCormick & Richey, Robert Huber.

Millinery—Dalmbert & Company, Lena Littell, Anna Wheeldon, Mary L. Hatfield, Minear Dry Goods Company.

Monuments—South Park Monument Works.

Musical Instruments—George Lanham, Christopher Link, J. W. Owens.

Newspapers—*Standard, Democrat, News, Review, Daily Times, Graphic.*

Optometrist—C. C. McCoy, Phillip H. Spohn.

Osteopath—G. C. Flick.

Physicians—P. C. Bentle, Charles Bird, F. P. Bitters, D. E. Douglass, C. B. Grover, T. B. Gullefer, C. F. Kercheval, C. C. Morrison, E. T. Riley, I. M. Sanders, R. M. Thomas, Paul R. Tinsdale, D. W. Weaver, B. S. White, James S. Woods, S. V. Wright.

Planing Mills—Greensburg Planing Mills.

Poultry Fanciers—C. J. Loyd, J. F. Strasburger, A. Goyert, C. Brown.

Poultry Remedies—A. Lowe.

Poultry Supplies—C. J. Loyd & Company.

Produce Merchants—Goyert & Company.

Restaurants—Benjamin Meyer, Michael O'Conner, Seitz, Garrett Sparks, J. P. Phillips, J. Turaschi.

Second-Hand Dealers—Oscar Sparks, J. E. Mobley, J. W. Jackson.

Shoe Repairers—John Doerflinger, George Tekulve, Michael McCormick.

Shoe Dealers—Donnell & Son, Edkins & Son, I. Carl Mitchell, Roy C. Kanouse, Styers & Son.

Sign Painters—James Duncan, Blaine Ham, Morton Davis.

Steam Laundry—Greensburg Sanitary Laundry.

Stone Quarries—Greensburg Limestone Company.

Telegraph Company—Western Union.

Telephone Companies—Central Union, Decatur County.

Transfer Companies—Greensburg Transfer Company.

Tailors—Will C. Ehrhardt, J. D. Ford, W. C. Hann, D. R. Kerr, George J. Kratt, H. L. Wittenberg, Ware & Cassler.

Upholstering—E. G. Schultz & Company, E. A. Rankin.

Vacuum Cleaning—J. W. Parrish.

Veterinarians—C. B. Ainsworth, A. D. Galbraith, I. B. Levy, L. A. Wood.

Wire Factory—Bromwell Brush and Wire Goods Company.

#### THE DECATUR COUNTY INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANY.

The first attempt in Decatur county to secure local telephone service was made in June, 1900, when two hundred leading citizens of Greensburg and farmers of the vicinity, at a mass meeting, organized the Decatur Telephone Company, and made provision for the sale of stock, erection of lines and the installation of a switchboard at Greensburg. Since its beginning, the concern has had its share of ups and downs, but now is in a very comfortable financial condition, with more than two thousand subscribers.

Stock was sold at twenty-five dollars a share and the company was capitalized at thirty thousand dollars. At the beginning, there were about one hundred subscribers. The first officers of the company were: S. L. Jackson, president; Morgan Miers, vice-president; Charles Zoller, Jr., secretary, and J. H. Christian, treasurer. These officers, with C. P. Miller, formed the board of directors.

In 1902 the telephone companies at Westport and Letts Corners sold out to the organization, and by this deal three hundred additional subscribers were added to the Greensburg exchange. Some time later the Newpoint Telephone Company and the Alert Telephone Company arranged to lease the privilege of the Greensburg exchange and the one hundred patrons of these two companies are now served free.

H. C. Stockman, then county treasurer, had the honor of introducing the first telephone used in Greensburg and Decatur county. In November, 1877, he opened a private line between his office, in the court house, and his grain elevator, six squares away on Monfort street. It was a great curiosity and many Greensburg residents heard their first "hello" over this line.

The Greensburg switchboard is of the highest type now in use and is designed for both speed and secrecy. It is known as the North automanual system and is a combination of the automatic and the old-style switchboard



Only a few operators are needed at this board, and they are unable to hear conversations that take place on the various lines.

Recently the company has been making an annual profit of eight per cent., which is given to stockholders in the form of reduced rates. Stockholders are limited in voting to four shares and all business of the company is transacted at an annual stockholders' meeting, which is always largely attended. There are now about one thousand stockholders. The present officers of the company are: C. P. Miller, president; W. V. Pleak, vice-president; J. H. Christian, secretary and treasurer, and F. S. Chapman, general manager.

#### MILEAGE AND VALUATION.

The total mileage and value per mile of all telegraph and telephone lines in Decatur county are as follow:

	Miles.	Value per Mile.
Western Union Telegraph Company-----	385	\$55
American Telephone and Telegraph Company-----	391.2	75
Central Union Telephone Company-----	516.5	36
New Long Distance Telephone Company-----	40	46
Decatur County Telephone Company-----	1,659	23
Napoleon Telephone Company-----	7	10
Zenas Independent Telephone Company-----	12.5	20

#### THE GREENSBURG IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

The Greensburg Improvement Association had its birth in 1892, when the Baxter Carriage Company, of Cincinnati, hunting another location, sought to secure a manufacturing plant in Greensburg. There were a number of concerns manufacturing cheap buggies in the Queen City, and the town had fallen into disrepute from the carriage manufacturer's standpoint. A number of prominent citizens of Greensburg pledged themselves to provide the necessary funds to build a plant, and arrangements were made to move the plant here.

Then some difficulties arose between the company and the Greensburg people, and the latter, for self-protection, incorporated the Greensburg Improvement Association. The first officers were Marshall Grover, president; W. B. Hamilton, vice-president, and D. A. Myers, secretary. Other members of the board of directors were Louis E. Lathrop and Henry Christian.

The difficulties were amicably adjusted and the association purchased one hundred and ten acres adjoining the city on the northwest, known as the Meek farm, which it split into town lots and sold, netting a profit of about thirty thousand dollars, which was applied to the erection of a suitable plant.

The company operated for a few years, but could not breast the hard times of 1896, and went into a receivership. When its affairs were wound up, the plant was sold to the Lincoln Carriage Company, headed by W. B. and Edward Austead, of Connersville. This company operated the plant successfully until 1905, when it was wiped out by fire, the entire brick building being destroyed, with a loss of one hundred thousand dollars.

The plant was partially rebuilt and a hay bailer company, organized to commercialize a new invention, was launched, but this concern was unsuccessful and the building is now occupied by the Kelly Manufacturing Company.

At least one growing concern had its inception and start in Greensburg. This was the Greensburg chair factory, which is now located at Anderson, Indiana. The company outgrew its space here and received an offer of a free factory site in Anderson. Local stockholders were bought out and the factory moved. It has grown to be one of the best manufacturing enterprises of Anderson.

The Greensburg Improvement Association now owns the Kelly plant and a number of lots which were parceled from the original plat and never sold. These plats contain five acres each and are suitable for improvement as suburban homes.

#### GREENSBURG COMMERCIAL CLUB.

Recognizing the fact that no city grows and accumulates wealth, save under wise direction and careful safeguarding of its interests by its own citizens, leading business and professional men of Greensburg took steps, in 1906, for the organization of a commercial body, which would afford these essentials for the future welfare of their municipality.

The first meeting was held in the office of the mayor, March 5, 1906, when a committee was named to draw up plans for organization and draft a constitution and by-laws. This committee was composed of George E. Erdmann, Harry Lathrop, Charles M. Woodfill, Dan S. Perry, C. D. Tillson, Oscar G. Miller and James E. Caskey. At a later meeting, the constitution prepared was adopted and Walter W. Bonner became the first president.

Other officers elected were: Charles Zoller, Jr., vice-president; Oscar Miller, secretary, and Dan Perry, treasurer.

The enterprise was made a stockholding concern and six thousand and forty dollars was subscribed. A tract of land was bought and sold in town lots, netting the club a profit of three thousand, five hundred dollars, which was made the nucleus of a factory fund. A hay-bailer factory and a shoe factory were brought to Greensburg, but both discontinued operations after a short time. A large number of factories which sought sites in Greensburg were, after careful investigation, refused financial assistance, and many thousands of dollars thereby saved local investors.

Since its organization, the club has always maintained a very substantial balance. The latest report of the treasurer places the assets of the organization at four thousand, nine hundred and thirteen dollars. Most of it is invested in short-time securities, so that it can be made available at any time needed.

When the automobile manufacturing fever was at its height, and mushroom plants were springing up in all parts of the state, a company was organized in Greensburg for the manufacture of a six-cylinder car, to be called the Hamiltonian. The sum of fifty thousand dollars was raised and the company was incorporated. Some steps were taken toward opening a factory, and then the entire matter was dropped. Officers of this company were: W. W. Bonner, president; Harry Woodfill, vice-president; C. P. Corbett, secretary and treasurer, and Harry Hamilton and D. A. Myers, directors. Although this company had the endorsement of the commercial club, it was in no sense an organization undertaking.

New directors of the organization elected in 1913 were: Locke Bracken, John H. Batterton, C. C. McCoy and Ed. G. Schultz. The holdovers were John F. Russel, Roy C. Kanouse and James E. Caskey. John F. Russel served that year as chairman, C. C. McCoy was elected secretary, and Roy C. Kanouse was re-elected treasurer.

Stockholders in the club authorized the directors to sell the Skeen building, which the organization owned, to George Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery had recently lost his place of business through fire. The building was sold to him at a price somewhat less than its estimated worth, as it is the desire of the organization to foster any enterprise which tends to build up the city.

At a later meeting, that year, Edwards Doles applied to the board for a loan at less than the usual rate. His spoke and rim factory had been burned and he wished to rebuild. The Commercial club responded to his

request and loaned him several thousand dollars at very liberal rates and on very easy payments.

In 1914, J. F. Russel, James E. Caskey, Roy C. Kanouse and E. G. Schultz, directors, whose terms expired that year, were re-elected. Georg E. Erdmann was elected to membership on the directorate, taking the place made vacant by the removal of Locke Bracken. John H. Batterton was elected president, the other officers remaining unchanged.

In 1914, the club pledged fifteen hundred dollars to secure the A. L. Lewis plant, located at Marion, Indiana, for Greensburg. The offer was accepted by the Marion company, which is now a permanent fixture, with bright prospects of becoming a large manufacturing plant. Old directors and officers were re-elected in 1915.

Since its formation in 1906, the present Commercial Club has accomplished a great deal for the city of Greensburg and the citizens thereof. The worth of a commercial club is not always to be measured by the number of manufacturing plants it secures for a city, but more often by its success in sifting out the good from the many fraudulent schemes offered to gain the public confidence. A commercial club is a guide post, or financial advisor to a city, to clear the way to safe investment, and the Greensburg Commercial Club has ever been on the alert, truly active in behalf of the best interests of the city.

#### THE GREENSBURG BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

Co-operation is the watchword of modern business. Lawyers and physicians, recognizing the value of mutual helpfulness, long ago, organized county, state and national organizations and used these bodies for the purpose of furthering their professional work through more efficient service. Followers of the other professions were not slow to fall in line.

The retail merchant has, in almost every instance, been the last to avail himself of the advantages of co-operation. The keen competition of present-day business life has in a measure been responsible for this condition. While retailers realized that there was a great economic waste through purely independent business methods, for a long time they felt themselves powerless to change conditions.

If John Smith, deadbeat, beat a hardware store out of a bill, the owner of the grocery, who had previously lost through extending credit to Smith, laughed in his sleeve at the owner of the hardware store. It was amusing to learn that some other unfortunate had run counter to the bill-beating



Smith. The groceryman nursed his feelings in secret for a time and then turned to laugh at the deadbeat's next victim.

After a while, Smith made the rounds of all the places where credit was obtainable and then found but two courses open to him—either he must pay his bills as he contracted them or move out of town. Now, the merchants of his town knew that he would not pay his bills, but they had paid high for their knowledge.

This sort of thing went on for years. Perhaps Smith left town, but others of his kind, under the same or other names, came in his place and the economic loss continued, a heavy drain not only upon the merchants, but also upon honest customers who were saddled with a goodly portion of the merchants' losses.

At last, the retailers roused themselves. They were confronted with the knowledge that if credit was to be extended at all, in fairness to the man who paid cash, it must be extended wisely. Accordingly, various merchants arranged for exchange of confidential credit information. In a short time every merchant in town was attracted by the idea and an organization was perfected.

Four times the business men of Greensburg have attempted such an organization and three failures have resulted. They relied largely upon word-of-mouth information and transacted what little business they had through officials chosen from the standpoint of popularity rather than from any unusual ability in organization work of this nature. Consequently, each of these three organizations, started under most auspicious circumstances, worked energetically for a time, lost efficiency, lingered for a time and then passed out of existence so quietly that even the professional dead-beats scarcely knew the exact hour of their passing.

The Greensburg Business Men's Association, the Greensburg merchants' fourth co-operative venture, was organized May 6, 1914. It differed from its predecessors in that it had a central office, with a paid secretary to do the work of the organization and look after details which had formerly been neglected by volunteer workers.

The first officers of this organization, who still manage its affairs, were Samuel Bonner, president; George Parish, vice-president; D. A. Betterton, treasurer, and Harry Lathrop, secretary. These officials are assisted in the management of organization matters by the following men, who, with them, comprise the directorate of the association: Clyde L. Meek, W. W. Bonner, Walter W. Crisler, Lemuel Dobyns, Roy C. Kanouse, Mort Richey, E. G.

Shultz, Robert St. John, George Shoemaker, Charles Thomson, C. P. Corbett and W. C. Pulse.

Besides guarding its members against losses through unwise credit extensions, through its confidential exchange file, the association also protects them against loss at the hands of promoters of valueless advertising schemes and itinerant peddlers. Members of the association agree to pay out no money to solicitors of any kind unless they have received the sanction of a special committee.

This committee is composed of three men, whose identity is unknown to the general membership and to one another. They report upon each applicant to the president and if two approve his project he receives the committee's sanction before he begins his canvass. During the first year of its existence, this committee passed upon twenty proposed advertising schemes and declined to sanction all but four. The estimated saving to the merchants of Greensburg through protection from the unworthy sixteen was placed at four thousand dollars.

Membership dues in the association were one dollar a month, and Greensburg merchants found its assistance so valuable that all but eight business men in the city had identified themselves with it before the end of its first year. At the end of its first year the organization had one hundred and ten members, eleven of whom lived in Adams, St. Paul, Letts, Sandusky, Newpoint and other parts of the county.

As a result of this co-operative venture, a better feeling grew among business men of Greensburg and the organization aimed at larger undertakings. Membership meetings are held each month and are well attended. During the summer a "Big Wednesday" is held once a month and special entertainment features are offered to bring citizens of Decatur county to Greensburg. The association conducts an annual street fair, works for good roads, sanitary living conditions and is a twenty-four-hour-a-day booster for Greensburg and Decatur county.

#### THE GREENSBURG CHAUTAUQUA.

In the last decade, a large number of chautauqua programs have been offered in cities and towns through the Middle West. In some instances, the public has held aloof or, at best, taken but a mild interest in efforts made by public-spirited citizens to bring the best in music, in oratory and kindred arts to them at prices so low as to belie their real worth. In such locations, the Chautauqua was a failure from the start and was rarely repeated after the first attempt.

But in places where there is a genuine public interest in matters of political importance, where there is a real appreciation of music, where people are alive to other things which make for sound knowledge and a more than veneered culture, the chautauqua has taken deep root and is accomplishing results which can be obtained in no other manner.

The success of the Greensburg Chautauqua Association, which offered its first program in 1911 and has occupied the field ever since, speaks well for the citizenship of Greensburg and Decatur county. As was of necessity the case, the first chautauqua held in Greensburg was something of an experiment. No one knew whether the event would prove a splendid success or an ignominious failure. In order to make the experiment, it was necessary that some one should guarantee the promoters against loss. The merchants of the city readily agreed to become guarantors of the undertaking and the first program was announced. It was so popular and so successful from every standpoint, that it was repeated the following year without first securing a list of guarantors and has been so conducted ever since. For business reasons, the association was incorporated in 1914, under the laws of Indiana, as an organization to promote general culture, and not for profit.

Management of the Greensburg chautauqua is vested in the board of directors of the association, together with James L. Loar and James Shaw, of Bloomington, Illinois, who were largely responsible for the introduction of the chautauqua in Decatur county. These men had been engaged in the business in Illinois for some time, but made their first attempt to conduct a program away from home in Greensburg.

Although the association has, in several instances, made money from its programs, it has, in all cases, given its patrons the benefit, by spending it the following year upon better and more expensive numbers. Since the first year, all meetings have been held at West Academy. The program is given about the middle of August and usually lasts ten days.

The following celebrities, among others, have spoken from a Greensburg chautauqua platform: William Jennings Bryan, Richmond P. Hobson, Senator Thomas P. Gore, George W. Bain and Bishops Quayle, Hughes and McDowell. Innes' and Vatales' bands have given concerts and some high-class dramatic talent has added variety to the programs.

Officers and directors of the association are: J. W. Craig, president; Dr. C. R. Bird, vice-president; G. G. Welsh, treasurer; Will Ehrhardt, secretary; Dr. P. C. Bentle, E. C. Jerman, Judge Hugh Wickens, R. C. Kanouse, Bert Morgan, Mrs. J. F. Goddard, Mrs. Alex. Porter and Miss Edith Patten. Mr. Ehrhardt is platform manager. Although the chautauqua grounds are

not exceptionally attractive as a camping place, a considerable number of patrons camp there each season.

THE ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF GREENSBURG.

The Associated Charities of Greensburg was organized in response to a definitely-felt need in November, 1906, and has been in active operation since 1907. Charities, public and private, had, of course, existed in the city previous to this date, but the board of directors, recognizing the necessity of placing the matter of relief upon the most sensible and most practicable working basis by bringing into co-operation all charitable agencies, so that they should not duplicate each other's work, such as keeping of records, friendly visiting among the poor and the organization of charitable effort so that it might be directed more effectively. Their first endeavor was to obtain a general secretary, who should organize and push forward the work. They were very fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Emma Sefton, who, for five years, discharged the duties with exceptional intelligence and devotion. Besides the general secretary, the chief agency of the work is the board of nine directors, representative men and women, who give their services gratuitously and have no other object in view than the proper care of the unfortunate. Monthly meetings are held and the general operation and policy of the association are under their direction. Four of the members of the board, Mrs. F. P. Montfort, vice-president; C. W. Woodward, treasurer; Margaret Drake, secretary, and Harry Lathrop, have served continuously since the organization of the society. George Erdmann, president; John F. Russel, I. Carl Mitchell, Mrs. Emma Hamilton and Robert St. John have since been elected directors. Mrs. Carrie F. Meek, the present general secretary, has served in this capacity for almost three years and has, with a singleness of purpose, endeavored to increase the scope and usefulness of the society. Its methods have been worked out slowly by careful experiment. Many of its cherished ideals are as yet unrealized, but each year some new things are accomplished that had before been unattainable.

The Girls' Cooking School, the fifth session of which is now being held, is one of the most helpful and practical departments of the association's work. The thirty girls enrolled are taught to cook, wash dishes, set the table and to serve. The excellent quality of the food prepared by them and the neatness and skill displayed attest how effectively instruction is given. The linen loan department, maintained by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, contains almost everything needed in a sick room and has carried



comfort and cheer into many homes. An employment bureau is maintained, at which a registration is made of both employers and men seeking work. This department has done some excellent work in relieving distressing situations by helping the heads of families to find employment. Each year a number of vacant lots are given out for gardening purposes to families that need them. Complete records of over four hundred cases of persons applying for assistance are on file in the office of the association. These are not for public inspection, but are kept in order and up to date, that intelligent aid may be rendered.

#### POSTOFFICE HISTORY.

After the incorporation of the town of Greensburg, the following letter was drafted, asking that a postoffice be established there:

“Greensburg, Indiana, September 11, 1822.

“Hon. Return J. Meigs, Postmaster General of United States:

“The undersigned respectfully represent that a postoffice is much wanted at Greensburg, Indiana. This place is selected as the seat of justice for the county of Decatur, established and organized at the last session of the Legislature of this state; it is situated on the waters of Sand creek, forty-four miles southeastward of Indianapolis, and on the mail route leading from Lawrenceburg by way of Napoleon, to that place.

“They recommend ————— for the appointment of postmaster and request that the office papers may be directed to Madison, from which place they can be speedily transmitted to this. They further request that the mail route aforesaid be put into immediate operation.”

From the fact that no names are attached and no one is recommended for the office of postmaster, it is to be inferred that this was probably the first draft of the petition.

The first postoffice in Greensburg was established when the town was first laid out and Thomas Hendricks was the first postmaster. The next was Andrew Davison, Democrat, appointed by Andrew Jackson in 1829, who served until William Henry Harrison took office. Then, in 1841, Davison resigned, whether of his own volition or by request, is not known. His successor was Silas Stewart.

The *Greensburg Repository* for May, 1841, says: “Barton M. Harney, Esq., has been appointed postmaster at this place, in the place of Silas Stewart, resigned. We believe this appointment will give universal satisfaction. Bart is an uncompromising Locofoco, an honest man, a good tailor, a clever

fellow, and we doubt not that he will make an accommodating and efficient postmaster."

Harney did make a good postmaster—for one day. When he received his commission, he removed the postoffice sign and the few mail pouches to his tailoring establishment. After conducting the office for one day he concluded that patrons of the office were damaging his stock. That same night he moved the "office" back to its old location and appointed John Stewart, a drug clerk, deputy postmaster.

John B. Covington, a Democratic editor, was appointed postmaster in 1854, and had the office on the north side of the square. Later, he sold his newspaper to William Van Horn, and the postmastership was transferred with it. The next postmaster was John Watson, during whose term the office was located near the railroad.

During the war the postmaster was John J. Hazelrigg. He was followed by James King. While King was postmaster the office was in the basement of the Presbyterian church. George H. Dunn, his successor, held the office for the longest period in its history. He was appointed by President Grant in 1869 and served until 1886. His deputies were Sam McGuire and George Dunn, Jr.

Henry E. Black served as postmaster from 1886 until 1890. His deputy was Miss Ida Black. The office was then located on South Franklin street. Thomas Hendricks was appointed to the office in 1890 and Stephen Rogers in 1894.

The next postmaster was James E. Caskey, during whose administration both urban and rural free delivery was established, and the business of the office correspondingly increased. While Caskey was postmaster, the safe was blown open and a small amount of money and stamps abstracted. A. M. Willoughby, editor of the *Greensburg Review*, was appointed postmaster in 1902, and served four years. He was followed in 1906 by L. D. Braden, editor of the *Greensburg Standard*. Mr. Braden made way, in 1910, for Bert Morgan, who served until 1914, when the present incumbent, George E. Erdmann, was appointed by President Wilson.

There are now thirteen rural routes radiating from the Greensburg office, supplying Decatur county farmers with daily papers and placing them in close touch with the city by means of the parcel post, which has shown a wonderful development during the past year. Including messenger boys, twenty-five persons in all are now employed at the Greensburg office.

No county in the state surpasses Decatur for completeness of service, it is said. Patrons of the rural routes leading from Greensburg are peculiarly

fortunate in their service, as they, in most instances, receive their mail in the forenoon. Carriers get away from the office and sometimes have their routes half covered, when carriers from other offices are still waiting for the morning mail train to arrive.

The chief rural free delivery center of the county is Greensburg, which has thirteen routes leading from it. In addition, it supplies postoffices at Millhousen, Clifty and Clarksburg. Rural routes are also operated from the Letts Corner, Westport, Newpoint, St. Paul and Burney postoffices.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The inception of the Greensburg public library dates from the latter part of 1901, when A. M. Willoughby, then mayor of Greensburg, opened correspondence with Andrew Carnegie regarding a donation for a library in this city. Correspondence was continued with Mr. Carnegie, which resulted in his making a proposition to furnish fifteen thousand dollars for the erection of a building, providing the city would furnish a suitable site and agree to support the library. In May, 1902, a vote was taken at the regular city election on the question of taxing the city for the support of the library and the resulting vote was practically unanimous in favor of the imposition of the tax. On August 1, 1902, the city council accepted Mr. Carnegie's gift formally and passed resolutions authorizing the levying of the library tax.

The next question was the location of the proposed building. The council advertised for property suitable for a library site and, after considering several locations, the site of the W. A. Watson foundry, on North Michigan avenue, was chosen. The council paid six thousand dollars for the lot, Mr. Watson donating one thousand to the city, which, with a donation of eighteen hundred dollars by citizens, reduced the amount paid by the city to thirty-two hundred dollars.

In October, 1902, a library board of seven members was appointed, as follows: By the judge of the Decatur circuit court, Hon. Will Cumback, Hugh D. Wickens and Mrs. Ida L. Ewing; by the common council, Mollie Zoller and Thomas E. Davidson; by the school board, Mrs. Anna C. Grover and M. D. Tackett. The board met at the house of Mrs. Grover on October 24 and organized by electing the following officers: Will Cumback, president; Hugh D. Wickens, vice-president; Mollie Zoller, secretary; Thomas E. Davidson, treasurer. Several architects submitted plans for a building and, after careful consideration, the firm of Harris & Shopbell were employed to

furnish the plans and specifications. On April 16, 1909, Pulse & Porter, of Greensburg, were awarded the contract for the construction of the building, the contract calling for \$10,725. This did not include the heating plant, which was awarded to Watson Sons, of Terre Haute, for \$741.63, and the wiring and plumbing to Watson & Company, of Greensburg, for \$450. This brought the total cost of the building up to \$11,916.63, of which amount the architects were to receive four per cent. The remainder of the fifteen-thousand-dollar donation of Mr. Carnegie was applied to the furnishing and interior decoration of the building. The cornerstone was laid on August 21, 1903, and on January 24, 1905, the library board formally tendered the completed building to the citizens of Greensburg. On the following day the library was opened for the circulation of books and during the decade which has elapsed since that time the library has continually increased in usefulness to the community.

The present library board is composed of the following: Samuel Bonner, president; Mrs. Kate Minear, vice-president; Mrs. Ida L. Ewing, secretary; Mrs. Will Pulse, Charles H. Ewing and Oscar G. Miller. Bessie Montfort was the first librarian and served in this capacity until her death, on September 17, 1905. Her father, Frank P. Montfort, was then elected librarian, and still continues in that capacity. The library now has a total of eight thousand volumes on the shelves and a wide variety of standard magazines. The records show that in June, 1915, about eleven hundred persons were taking advantage of the library.

#### THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

In 1915 there was completed in Greensburg what is probably the finest Y. M. C. A. building in the United States for a city of its size. Certainly there is no building in Indiana which approaches it in completeness. Another distinctive feature of this building is the fact that it is the gift of one man, and he not only gave the money for the site, the building and its equipment, but also an endowment fund for its perpetual maintenance. As far as is known, no other Young Men's Christian Association building in the world has been established under such conditions.

Nelson Mowrey is responsible for this magnificent building, which will stand as a tribute to his philanthropy for many generations yet to come. As a youth, Mr. Mowrey was deprived of educational advantages and it has been his desire for several years to do something for the city of Greensburg



which would help the boys and young men of the town to improve their opportunities. It was not until, after careful investigation and long conferences with intimate friends, that he decided to build and endow a Young Men's Christian Association building for his native city.

On July 30, 1914, Mr. Mowrey made a donation of sixty thousand dollars for the purchase of a site and the erection and equipment of a Young Men's Christian Association building. But his beneficence did not stop here. Realizing the difficulty which a city of this size would have in maintaining a building of this size, he provided for a permanent endowment fund of forty thousand dollars, which was to be kept intact, only the interest to be used for maintenance. Since making this original gift of one hundred thousand dollars, Mr. Mowrey has made an additional donation of twelve thousand five hundred dollars in order that the building and grounds might have certain desirable improvements.

When Mr. Mowrey made his original donation he provided for a board of ten representative citizens of Greensburg (he being one of the number), and this board became the incorporators of the Young Men's Christian Association. These incorporators included himself and nine other citizens of the city, as follows: Dr. C. C. Morrison, D. A. Myers, E. C. Jerman, Robert Naegel, C. P. Corbett, George P. Shoemaker, Frank Bennet, R. C. Kanouse and Henry Hodges. Furthermore, Mr. Mowrey designated the first seven of these men as a board of directors. The directors at once organized, with the following officers: Frank Bennet, president; D. A. Meyers, vice-president; E. C. Jerman, secretary. Mr. Bennet resigned in November, 1914, to move to California, and Dr. C. C. Morrison was elected president to fill the vacancy. In order to keep the number of incorporators up to the local requirement, W. W. Bonner was selected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Bennet. The board of trustees consists of D. A. Meyers, R. C. Kanouse and Henry Hodges.

As soon as the two boards were organized, steps were taken at once to select a site, to plan the building and equip it in such a way as to make it as good as any in the country. Many sites were suggested before the present location on North Broadway, a half block from the public square, was finally selected. This site, purchased from Doctors Kercheval and White, has a frontage of one hundred and twenty and a depth of one hundred and sixty feet. Several architects submitted plans, but those of Shattuck & Hussey, of Chicago, were finally selected. The contract for the building was let on February 15, 1915, to W. H. Isgigg & Son, of Greensburg, the same to be completed by the 15th of the following October.

The main building is seventy by one hundred feet, with annex extending thirty-seven feet in the rear. It has a basement and two stories, with a total of thirty-eight rooms. The style of architecture is known as early English and the architects have succeeded in designing a building which combines beauty and utility.

The basement has three educational rooms, separated by accordion doors so that the rooms can be thrown together for banquet purposes. Two hundred people can easily be seated in the three rooms. A kitchen, completely equipped, adjoins these three rooms. It was the desire of Mr. Mowrey that the girls and women of the city might have accommodations in the building, and for this reason a ladies' rest room, cloak, locker and toilet rooms are provided in the basement for their use. An outside entrance is provided for the ladies. Furthermore, the basement is so arranged that they have access to the swimming pool and it is the intention to set aside certain days in each week when the girls and women may have the use of the pool. On the opposite side of the basement from the ladies' quarters, are found the lockers and toilet rooms for the boys and men. The distinctive feature of the basement is the swimming pool, which is twenty by sixty feet, with maximum depth of nine feet. The pool itself, as well as the room in which it is placed, is floored with tile and a wainscoting of the same material extends around the room. The pool extends back into the annex of thirty-seven feet, which has been previously mentioned, the whole of the annex being roofed by a skylight. The rest of the basement is taken up with the heating plant and coal room. It should be mentioned in this connection that it was thought desirable to have additional coal space and Mr. Mowrey very generously provided for an outside underground bin, adjoining the boiler room, which has a capacity of two car loads. The basement, as originally planned, had a cement floor, but, at the suggestion of the board of directors, Mr. Mowrey made an additional donation for a terazzo floor. This flooring is used in all the basement except the pool room, which is of tile, and the boiler and coal rooms, which are of cement.

The first floor is reached by marble steps from the front of the building. The vestibule has two doors, the right door opening into the men's side and the left door into the boys' department. Between the two doors, facing the outside door, is a magnificent bronze plaque of Mr. Mowrey in bas-relief. The rooms set aside for the men are provided with books and magazines and wholesome games of various kinds. The reading room faces the front and is a large, airy room, with beautiful appointments. The boys' rooms, on the left, correspond in a general way to those of their elders on the right. The

secretary's office is placed in such a manner that he can oversee not only the rooms of the men and boys, but also the gymnasium, which occupies the rear of the first and second stories. The gymnasium extends the full height of the first two stories and is surrounded with a gallery. In this room are found all the latest physical appliances, while the room is amply large enough for basket ball, hand ball and various other kinds of indoor sports. A cork running track is also provided. The office of the physical director adjoins the gymnasium.

The second floor contains seventeen dormitories, which are to be rented to members of the association. This floor is provided with shower baths and toilet rooms. As has been said, the gymnasium extends through the first and second floors.

The building is heated with hot water and lighted by electricity. Nothing but the best of material was used in its construction and the board of directors have taken pride in making this building the equal, to say the least, of any building of its kind in the country. The grounds are surrounded with a nine-inch coping, which adds not a little to the general attractiveness of the building itself. A croquet ground is provided in the southwest corner of the grounds and a tennis court in the northwest corner. It was an after-thought of Mr. Mowrey to provide for the paving of the alleys, which are on the side and rear of the grounds.

Such, in brief, is a description of one of the most unique buildings which has ever been erected in the United States. Mr. Mowrey has taken an active interest in the building from the start and the board of directors have found in him a sympathetic assistant in their labors. To Dr. C. C. Morrison, as president of the board, should be given a large amount of credit. As the closest personal friend of Mr. Mowrey, he has tried to carry out his wishes in a faithful and conscientious manner and Mr. Mowrey is free to acknowledge the indebtedness which he owes to Doctor Morrison. The other members of the board have labored no less zealously to make this building what it is and the city of Greensburg owes a debt of gratitude, not only to the donor of this magnificent building, but to the men whom Mr. Mowrey chose to take general management of his gift. It is to be hoped that the boys and young men of Greensburg will properly appreciate this building and that it will mean a better citizenship and a better city.

#### MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The finances of the city are in the hands of the clerk, who, at the end of each year, issues an annual statement showing the financial condition of the

city. The city clerk, Cortez Patton, furnished the following financial statement for the year ending December 31, 1914:

LIABILITIES.

Schools bonds, issued August 15, 1899-----	\$22,500.00	
Refunding bonds issued December 30, 1909-----	20,000.00	
School site bonds, issued June 1, 1912-----	6,500.00	
Miscellaneous -----	439.00	
Total -----		\$49,439.00
Assets -----	\$60,705.00	60,705.00
Excess of assets over liabilities-----		\$11,266.00

RECEIPTS.

Regular receipts -----	\$35,347.00	
Special improvement assessment -----	3,342.00	
		38,889.00

EXPENDITURES.

Regular -----	\$39,731.00	
Carnegie Library Board -----	2,419.00	
Interest and principal on bonds-----	3,236.00	
		44,386.00
Deficit for year -----		5,497.00

CITY OFFICERS.

The present officers of the city of Greensburg are as follow: Mayor, James E. Mendenhall; clerk, Cortez Patton; council, Wesley Lanius (first ward), Harry Mount (second ward), Marion Allen( third ward), Thomas Tumilty (fourth ward), and two-at-large, Frank Magee and I. B. Levy; chief of police, W. I. Johnston; chief of the fire department, Joseph Kelley; health officer, Dr. B. S. White.

The churches, schools, lodges, newspapers, banks, building associations, railroads and industries of Greensburg are referred to in separate chapters.



## CHAPTER VII.

### EDUCATION.

The educational history of Decatur county falls into two divisions, the period from the organization of the county, until 1853, when the present system of public schools was adopted, and from that date to the present. Free schools were provided for by the Constitution of 1851, but it was not until two years later that they went into operation. From 1822 until 1853 there was not a single free school in Indiana, for even the old academies were supported, in part, by tuition.

All education was obtained in what were known as subscription schools, parents paying the teacher so much a term for each pupil they sent to school. Teachers were not examined and taught only the rudiments of reading, writing and arithmetic. The three R's formed the basis of all work in the school room, although in the more pretentious institutions geography and history were taught.

### EARLY RURAL SCHOOLS.

The usual school term in Decatur county during the early days was three months, and the school day began early in the morning and lasted until sundown. The teacher would be at his desk at sunrise and the first pupil to arrive at the school house would be the first to recite. This privilege of reciting first was much sought by those more eager for knowledge and there was usually keen competition among the star pupils, and consequent early rising. There were a few drones, however, who cared little whether school kept or not, and therefore, as if to show their contempt for learning, would come straggling in about ten o'clock, or in plenty of time for the noon recess.

Early schools were held in vacant log cabins, chinked with mud, provided with puncheon seats and oiled-paper windows. Text books were the American Primer, Dilworth's and Webster's spelling book, Guthrie's or Pike's arithmetics, the English Reader, the Bible and, sometimes, Weem's "Life of Washington." This last book was a novel, but won a place in the list of text books because of the excellence of the moral carried by the cherry tree story.

School houses were not provided with bells in those days and when the teacher wished to call his pupils from play, he would step outside, pound upon the side of the school building with a stick and shout, "Books! Books!" at the top of his voice.

Pupils studied "out loud," and the resultant bedlam was audible for some distance from the building. The experienced teacher could tell in an instant when some youth wavered in his pursuit of learning or sought to engage in conversation, at the expense of his lessons.

Sometime near 1840 Miss Jane Bartee taught a school in the southern part of the county. She must have possessed an ear for both rhyme and rythm, for she gave her school rules a metrical embodiment. The following classical fragment is still extant:

"No rippin', no tearin',  
No cussin', no swearin',  
No clingin', no swingin', to trees."

The father of this poetical school ma'am was a justice of the peace, and, by virtue of that office, a member of the county board, which performed the duties of the present-day county commissioners. When the board met in Greensburg, Mr. Bartee would walk thither, barefooted and garbed in undyed homespun, and, thus attired, enter upon his official duties with all due dignity.

Teachers were expected to treat their pupils at Christmas. Whisky and sugar were common delicacies for teachers to serve to boys and girls at this glad season. Sometimes a teacher, with more than ordinary moral and physical courage, braved public opinion and declined to treat on this occasion. Often it went hard with him. A Mr. East, teaching in Marion township, once declined to follow precedent in this respect. He was seized by the larger boys and hustled most ingloriously toward a nearby pond. He yielded to the inevitable just in time to escape a ducking.

Singing was a common method used by teachers in inculcating familiarity with multiplication tables and geographical facts. The pupils sang their tables through, from the "twos" to the "twelves," forward and backward, and then, with what spirit they had left, swept into the strains of the geography song, the first line of which went something like this:

"Maine, Maine, Augusta, on the Kennebec river; Maine, Maine, Augusta, on the Kennebec river."

Some of the early teachers who had charge of schools in Decatur county during the twenty years following its organization were: J. H.

Rankin and William Marlow, Springhill; John Goddard, Clinton township; "Uncle Jack" Bell and John Hopkins, Mt. Carmel; Sam Donnell, Samuel Henry, James McCoy, William Thomson, Kingston; Tom Peery, Elijah Mitchell, Enoch Tackett, J. S. Guant and Garrard Morgan, near Greensburg, and Joe Patton, Samuel Sebaugh and James Brockmare, in Greensburg.

#### QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS.

In the early days, not much preparation was required in order to "teach school." The pedagogue looking for a school for the winter, with an opportunity to "board round" and so eke out his scanty earnings, went to the township trustees, applied for a place, and if they liked his appearance he was hired without much of an examination into his qualifications. In most cases, the trustees themselves were men with very little education and would not presume to question the ability of anyone seeking a position as teacher.

When examinations were given, they were usually oral and, in most cases, delightful farces. In the early days, so the story goes, a young woman applied to Doctor Moody for a license to teach. Doctor Moody was a member of the board of county examiners. He asked her a few questions and then gave her the following certificate:

"This certifies that Miss —— can read *a little* and write *a little*."

In 1835 Dr. S. H. Riley, then a young man, wanted a license to teach and presented himself at the drug store of County Examiner Daviess Batterton, in Greensburg. Mr. Batterton wrote down a question upon a slate and Riley, seated upon a box, would write the answer upon paper. Meanwhile Mr. Batterton would wait upon a customer or two and then write down another question. When the examination was completed, Batterton wrote out a teacher's license for Riley.

Residents of Springhill called a meeting on July 2, 1843, for consideration of methods for improving the common school system. George Anderson presided and E. Mitchell acted as secretary. The following organization was effected: Adams Rankin, president; William Anderson, secretary; W. M. Herrick, Rev. James Worth and John Bell, directors. Rev. Hugh Maime and P. Hamilton were requested to address the meeting at a future date.

## THE DECATUR COUNTY SEMINARY.

In 1818 the Legislature passed a law providing for a trustee for each county, whose duty it should be to accumulate and invest funds arising from exemption money and fines, for the establishment of a secondary school in each county, to receive pupils from township schools and fit them for the State University. This law was superseded in 1824 by an act providing for county seminaries. The Greensburg seminary was authorized by an act of the Legislature on January 20, 1832.

In 1833, eleven years after its organization, Decatur county availed itself of this law. A sufficient sum had been raised from sources mentioned to build a seminary. The location selected was the corner of Franklin and McKee streets, one square from the railroad. Contract for its erection was awarded to Jacob Stewart, who completed the building in 1834, at a cost of two thousand dollars. Stewart had formerly been a land surveyor under Colonel Hendricks.

The first trustees of the institution were: James Freeman, James Elder, Abraham Garrison, Benjamin Jones, Morton Atkins, David Montague, David Johnson and Samuel Donnell.

The old building, which is still standing, is a large, square, two-story brick structure, surmounted by a brick cupola. The grounds about the institution covered an entire block, giving the few pupils a considerable amount of territory over which to romp and play. The seminary was opened in September, 1834, but, like other institutions of this character in the state, it relied entirely upon tuition fees to pay teachers and meet other expenses. The day of free schools was still far distant.

James G. May was the first instructor. He had been employed as assistant teacher for a time at Salem and was well qualified to take charge of the institution. He was assisted by his wife and sister and Elias Riggs, a Princeton man and uncle of Riggs Forsyth, at one time head of the old First National Bank. The first pupils were Orville Thompson, Oregon Thompson, Camilla Thompson and James B. Lathrop.

May was succeeded, in 1840, by Abram T. Hendricks, a graduate of Hanover College, who taught for one year and then quit to enter the ministry. While he was in charge of the seminary he had the valuable assistance of his younger brother, Thomas A. Hendricks, who later became vice-president of the United States.

Dr. J. B. Lathrop, who was one of the first students at the old seminary, remembers Mr. Hendricks very well, as he and the man who later became



governor of Indiana and then vice-president, read Virgil together in the old building. The last time Mr. Lathrop met the distinguished man, Mr. Hendricks told him that, while he didn't know whether or not he had accomplished much good in the world, he did know that he had many pleasant recollections of days spent at the old seminary.

Speaking of Mr. May, the first instructor, Mr. Lathrop says: "He was assisted by his sister, Miss Elizabeth May. I can say for him that, while he licked them every day, the boys who went to school to him have a profound reverence for his memory. I remember that he was very anxious to organize a Latin class. I was nine years old and was one of its first members. Mr. May taught later in Salem and New Albany. He taught until he was eighty-two years old. When he became so old that he was no longer wanted in town, he went out into the country to teach."

The next superintendent of the seminary was Philander Hamilton, a product of the institution which was placed in his charge in 1841. When but a small boy, he met with an accident and was badly crippled. He first studied in the seminary under James May and later graduated from Hanover College. He managed the institution for one year and then retired to edit the *Greensburg Sentinel*. Hamilton turned a year later to the study of law and died after practicing a few years. He served one term in the Legislature.

Francis P. Monfort, graduate of Oxford College, and later a Presbyterian minister, followed Hamilton. He is said to have possessed marked ability as a poet. Monfort was assisted by Agnes Neal until 1844, when he was succeeded by Dr. Andrew M. Hunt, later founder of Sioux City, Iowa.

Davies Batterton, an Indiana University man, was the last head of the seminary. He took charge of the institution in 1847. In 1852 the new state constitution abolished the seminary system, the building was sold and the money applied to the school fund. As Greensburg was not incorporated until 1859, the building was rented and maintained by private enterprise as a grammar school.

Among students at the seminary who achieved success in later life were: Thomas A. Hendricks, United States senator and vice-president of the United States; Dewitt C. Rich, who represented Jennings county in the Legislature; John F. Ewing, who became a successful lawyer at Burlington, Iowa; James N. Sander, noted Presbyterian minister; Orville Thompson, printer, soldier and writer, and James B. Lathrop, minister and banker.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

About 1840 Benjamin Nyce and his sister Elizabeth conducted a school in a small building on the site of the present county jail. Miss Nyce taught the smaller children and her brother the larger ones. Eight years later a subscription school was started on Jackson street by Miss Martha Ann Gageby. Dennis Coakley, an Irishman, had a school during the spring of 1849 on North Franklin street. Another school was opened in the basement of the Presbyterian church in 1850 by Rev. David Monfort and Miss Mary Carter. In 1851 Mrs. Luther taught a subscription school in a little one-room frame house on West Washington street.

Later, private schools were started for those who wished to secure a higher education than they could obtain in the public schools. Miss Abbie Snell, a New Englander, taught a class of twenty regular high-school subjects in the rear of the present Greensburg National Bank building. Associated with this school was one taught by Miss Hood, later Mrs. James Bonner. Miss Snell later married Judge Bonner. Miss Hood, with the assistance of Belle Carroll, conducted a school in the basement of the old Presbyterian church. It was organized in 1869 and continued until 1875.

FIRST FREE SCHOOL.

The first free school in Greensburg was opened on July 20, 1857, with four teachers: Mrs. McCollough, Miss Eunice Paul, B. F. West and I. G. Grover. Text books used were: McGuffey's readers, Ray's arithmetic, Pineo's grammar, Goodrich's history, Bullion's languages, Comstock's philosophy and chemistry, and Davies's legends. The higher branches were taught by Mr. Grover. The first school trustees under the new system were W. W. Lowe, A. I. Hobbs and B. H. Harney. The primary department, taught by Mrs. McCollough, was located in the basement of the Baptist church; the next grade, taught by Miss Paul, met in the basement of the Presbyterian church, and the other two teachers held forth in the seminary.

GRADED SCHOOLS.

The first graded school in Greensburg was in 1861. It was conducted in the basement of the old Baptist church. Miss Drucilla Warthin was principal and Miss Rebecca Richmond, assistant. The school was free for town pupils, but those coming from the country were charged six dollars for the

three-months term. The curriculum embraced philosophy, algebra and ancient history, in addition to the common school branches of learning.

Upon the organization of this graded school, Doctor Moody, A. R. Forsyth and J. B. Lathrop were named trustees. There was only sufficient money to run the school for a term, with no allowances for incidentals. Money was raised to hire a janitor by assessing each pupil fifty cents.

It was during this term that Doctor Moody displayed true Solomonic wisdom in settling a rather delicate matter. One of the patrons of the school came to him and protested because a little negro girl was attending the school. He said he would take his own daughter out unless the colored pupil was removed. The colored girl was very light in color, while the protesting citizen's daughter was a very dark brunette. "Very well," said Doctor Moody. "We will send a man around tomorrow to pick out the negro. If he picks out the negro, she goes out, and if he picks out your child, she goes out." The irate citizen was content to drop the matter.

By the school law of 1853, civil township trustees were authorized to establish a sufficient number of public schools to care for the education of all white children. Negroes and mulattoes were not to be admitted; neither could they be taxed for school purposes.

The following old petition, presented by Greensburg colored people to the school board, is preserved in the public library: "We, the colored people of the city of Greensburg, respectfully ask you that our children be admitted to all the rights and privileges of the public schools. We beg to say that we make this request for the reason that there are not sufficient colored children in the city to justify the organization of a separate school for them." The petition was signed by J. W. Therman, Richard Lewis, Mitchel Tracy, W. B. Scott, S. Crewett, W. Sanders, John Morgan and George W. Lee. Richard Lewis was the father of a subsequent graduate of the Greensburg high school who became professor of mathematics at Hampton Institute.

In 1870 a separate school for colored children was operated for a time in rooms over the First National Bank, with a Miss Anderson as instructor. The project was abandoned after a short trial.

#### TEACHERS' GATHERINGS.

The first recorded gathering of Decatur county pedagogues took place in Greensburg in 1857. Two teachers in Sand Creek township, Kidd and Chaffin by name, had been raising a considerable amount of rhetorical dust in arguments on corporal punishment. Debates had been held in various

parts of the township, and they arranged to conduct a debate in Greensburg, in order that teachers from all parts of the county might be present.

Fifteen teachers assembled in Harney's hall to hear the two worthies present their arguments. But, before either of them could take the floor and open the meeting, W. H. Powner arose and, after pointing out the futility of such a discussion, proposed that an organization be effected for improvement of methods of instruction. The suggestion was followed and Davies Batterton was elected president and J. A. Dillman, secretary. Neither of the authorities upon corporal punishment was given an opportunity to loose their floodgates of oratory. The first teachers' association met in Greensburg the first Saturday in December, 1859, and the last Saturday of the same month a permanent organization was effected with Davies Batterton at the head.

This organization conducted the first teachers' institute in August, 1860. G. W. Hoss, later state superintendent of public instruction, was the lecturer. The following year an institute was held at Clarksburg.

Probably the first class of any kind to be conducted for the benefit of teachers was one held in Milford, in August, 1862. This institute was in session five weeks, with an attendance of forty-five. One of the members of this class was Elizabeth Riley, who later became Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart. The instructors were County Examiner William H. Powner, J. B. Mallett, G. W. Stotsenberg, Jacob Dillman and a Mr. Merritt. At the end of the term a written examination was conducted. Most of the male teachers left in the middle of the term, when news of a Confederate raid was received, to volunteer for home defense.

Those who were successful in passing the examination received a teacher's license, issued by the county examiner, which had been written by Mr. Sinks, a writing teacher. The county examiner delivered them in person and collected a fee of fifty cents from each person who secured a license. A local newspaper of that day made the following pertinent comment on the meeting: "Professors Powner and Merritt have solved two important problems: First, that institutes in this county are a fixed fact and will be held annually, and, second, that this county has no need to import teachers to conduct normal schools."

#### NORMAL SCHOOLS.

Need of some educational advantages for professional teachers was first officially recognized in 1870, when a county normal school was con-



ducted by C. W. Harvey, although we find the following article in the *Standard* files of 1862: "The Decatur County Normal School closed its first session of six weeks on August 15, at Milford. Dr. D. S. Welling, Prof. G. Hoss and Prof. W. H. Venable were the lecturers, and held an examination the last week. There were enrolled sixteen males and thirty-one females, whose names are given. R. W. Miers, L. H. Braden and Misses Maggie Logan and Louisa Marshall and Mrs. Mary Sefton still survive."

Thirty teachers attended this training school of 1870, which continued for three weeks. Although the results accomplished were of great value, no effort was made to give another normal course until 1879, when E. L. Duncan and Dr. J. A. Carr, then county superintendent, conducted a six-weeks course at Adams, which was attended by thirty-five teachers.

In 1880 Messrs. Duncan and Carr held their first normal in Greensburg. It continued for six weeks, was attended by sixty-four teachers and closed with the county teachers' institute. The feature of this course was the professional instruction given by Mr. Duncan. The following summer, C. L. Hottell, principal of the Clarksburg schools, opened a normal school, which had only a fair attendance.

A third normal course was given in Greensburg in 1892 by W. P. Shannon, George L. Roberts and C. T. Powner. Other courses of a similar character were given in Greensburg in 1893 and 1897. Most of them lasted for six weeks and were held for the purpose of making an academic review of the common branches. Lectures were also given upon psychology and other subjects, with the idea of fitting those attending to pass teachers' examinations.

Since the passage of the act requiring all candidates for teachers' licenses to have taken a prescribed course in normal work, this training has been given at state institutions and other educational centers, and the county normal is a thing of the past. In its time it did a great deal of good, and many teachers received excellent preparation for the school room by attending its sessions.

#### THE FLAG.

Today the American flag flies over every school house in the country. There was a time when it was not customary to display the national ensign from such places, and an attempt to fly it over the school house in Milford caused considerable trouble, resulting in the arrest of a number of prominent citizens there. In honor of the election of Abraham Lincoln, two of his ardent supporters raised a flag above the school house. That same night

it was taken down by others, who saw in the action an affront to themselves. Another flag was secured and placed upon a pole in the school house yard. This pole was cut down and the flag removed. At the next session of court ten Milford men were required to answer to charges of riot.

During the Civil War the schools of the county were closed for one year, on account of financial troubles. Trustees had been hiring teachers a year before money with which to pay them became available. The Legislature passed a law requiring the necessary money to be in the township funds before teachers could be retained. This made it necessary to close the schools until operating funds could be secured. During this period a large number of subscription schools were conducted.

#### SCHOOL SUPERVISION.

Before the creation of the office of county superintendent by act of the Legislature in 1872, the duties of that position were discharged by school examiners. There were at first three examiners for each county, but later the number was reduced to one. The powers of the school examiner were slightly broader than those wielded by the board of examiners. The first examiner to be appointed was William H. Powner, who was given the office in 1860. J. B. Mallett took the office in 1866. He was followed by James R. Hall, who served until the reappointment of Mr. Powner in 1871. Powner then held the position until it was abolished.

Establishment of the office of county superintendent in Decatur county did not work the marked changes which were experienced in other parts of the state. Powner, who had been school examiner, was continued in charge of the schools of the county, at a slight increase in salary, with but slight changes from the duties he had been performing during the ten years previous.

In 1873, under the amended superintendency act, the board of county commissioners appointed Philander Ricketts superintendent. The amendment to the original law curtailed the salary of the office and also reduced its powers. Ricketts served for a year and then tendered his resignation. Meanwhile, the amended law had been declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. The board of county commissioners then, in 1876, appointed James L. Carr. John H. Bobbitt was appointed the following year, and, after serving for a short time, resigned. W. B. Ryan was appointed to complete the unexpired term. Mr. Carr then held the office for a term of two years. J. H. Bobbitt was elected in 1881 and served for three terms, or

until 1887. He was again a candidate for the office in this year, but was defeated by John W. Jenkins in a close contest. Eighty-six ballots were taken by the township trustees before either candidate secured a majority of the votes.

County superintendents elected since that time have been: L. D. Braden, 1889; John W. Jenkins, 1891; E. C. Jerman, 1897; Edgar Mendenhall, 1903, and Frank C. Fields, 1911.

The school enumeration for Decatur county for 1872, as taken by Superintendent W. H. Powner, was seven thousand and fifty-eight. The number of school children in the county, according to the latest enumeration is five thousand ninety-eight.

#### FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING.

The first school building in Greensburg was completed in 1863 by R. B. Thomson, contractor, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. It was located on Monfort street, midway between North and Washington streets, on what was then known as the Luther lot. The erection of this building was begun by the town school board, composed of Samuel Christy, W. A. Donnell and Barton Wilson. Two additions were later added to this lot. The high school addition, a two-story affair, was erected in 1876, and used until the present high school building was opened.

When the first building was in the course of construction a workman fell from its walls and was killed. For many years the tradition lingered that the ghost of the unfortunate mechanic lurked in the basement of the building, and many a child held to the straight and narrow path of school discipline through fear of being sent to the basement in punishment for misdemeanors.

The real beginning in earnest of the schools was not until 1862, when the "seat of learning" was transferred from the "old seminary" in the southeast part of the city, to the present site on West Washington street. The location of this site was made by popular vote.

B. F. Brewington was superintendent when the new building was first used in the fall of 1862, and he remained four years, being succeeded by J. R. Hall, who was at the helm in 1866-67, and J. W. Culley in 1867-68. The school had grown in 1867 until the enrollment was six hundred and sixty-nine.

A new era dawned on the schools in the fall of 1868, when Prof. C. W.







HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, GREENSBURG.

Harvey became superintendent. He remained at the head of the schools for thirteen years, and by his planning and firm executive ability he set the schools upon a higher plane of usefulness than they had ever been before. At the conclusion of his term in 1881 there were eight hundred and twenty-six pupils in the schools and fourteen teachers employed.

GREENSBURG HIGH SCHOOL.

Near the close of Professor Harvey's first year, 1869, the high school department was instituted in the same building where the common branches were taught. Until 1875, when the high school addition was erected, the school had the competition of the private school which was managed by Mrs. Abbie Bonner.

The Greensburg high school began its career on September 5, 1869, with Miss Rebecca Thomson as principal. Rev. J. R. Walker, a native of Ireland and a well-remembered United Presbyterian preacher, was professor of languages. Prof. C. W. Harvey was superintendent, but was ill and not able to be in school the first week. Miss Thomson came here from Rising Sun in 1868, and went from here to Franklin College.

Other teachers of the schools at this time were: Mary Howells, Cincinnati; Mehitabel Fowler, Troy; Amelia Holby, Kate Cunningham, Mary Wilson, Almira Thomson, Bell Carroll and Mrs. Rebecca Rhiver.

The first high school commencement exercises were held at the Baptist church on May 19, 1871. There were two graduates, Miss Ida R. Stout and Miss Anna Myers, who afterward won distinction in the New York journalistic field. On this memorable occasion the two young lady graduates read essays which were pronounced creditable productions by the hearers.

There were five graduates at the second annual commencement, which was held at the Christian church. Those who were members of the class of 1872 were Mollie Paul, Mary Christy, Jennie Williams, Lizzie Shirk and Lou Pope. Mr. Pope later became head of a Chicago educational concern. In 1873 Ida and Herschel Wooden and Belle White were granted diplomas. There were about fifty students in high school at that time.

The grade teachers then were as follows: Rebecca Rhiver, Seymour Pierce, Allie Thomson, Mamie Wilson, Lizzie Dobyns, Mary Howells, Amelia Holby, Mary E. Wilson, Maggie Stoner and Mary Elcock.

The high school grew steadily in popularity as people perceived its value and in a very few years classes of considerable size were being graduated.

As years went by, more and more students saw the necessity of secondary school training and entered the high school direct from the common branches.

In 1876 the attendance had so increased that added quarters were rendered necessary, and a brick addition, fifty by eighty feet, was built, in 1877, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars. The trustees then were W. A. Donnell, Samuel Christy and Doctor Bracken. The addition is still in use for the grades. The first principal of the new high school was W. P. Shannon, who served until 1882, when he became superintendent of the city schools, succeeding Superintendent Harvey. Mr. Shannon died on December 16, 1897.

C. T. Hottell became the principal when Mr. Shannon was given the superintendency. He was followed by David Curry and George L. Roberts. Mr. Roberts served the high school for ten years and then went to Indiana University in the summer to take his Bachelor's degree. He returned to Greensburg for the following school year, and upon the death of Mr. Shannon was appointed to take the superintendency. He remained here until 1901, and then went to Frankfort, and later to Muncie. He is now at the head of the department of education in Purdue University.

The next high school principal was Edgar N. Mendenhall, who served six years and resigned in 1903 to become county superintendent. Superintendent Roberts was succeeded in 1901 by D. M. Geeting, former state superintendent of public instruction, a man of broad experience, who was thoroughly acquainted with all branches of school work. He served until 1903, and then left Greensburg to become deputy state statistician, a position he held until his death. Superintendent Jerman, the present incumbent, succeeded Professor Geeting in 1903.

There have been graduates every year except 1883, when the high school course was enlarged and another year's work added. There have also been five colored graduates from the Greensburg high school, but none of recent years. The enrollment in 1908-09 had been the largest up to that time. It was as follows: High school, 184; West building, 679; East building, 284. Total, 1,147.

The high school had reached such proportions by 1912 that it was deemed necessary to provide larger and more modern quarters. The contract was let on August 16, 1912, for the erection of a new high school building by Trustees W. C. Woodfill, John F. Russell and Dr. R. M. Thomas. Pulse & Porter were awarded the contract for \$65,410.09. It was completed in the winter of 1914, and, although not entirely finished, the high school classes were first held in the new building in the winter term of that year.

There have been 753 graduates from the Greensburg high school in its forty-six years of existence, 267 boys and 486 girls making up the list, according to the figures gleaned from the *Standard*.

The Greensburg schools have attained their high state of development through a long series of educational efforts, and the good citizens of this city deserve a great amount of praise in contributing so nobly to this cause and standing behind all educational ventures which have been carried on by the different heads from the beginning of the school systems. The high school stands today in the front ranks, and in looking back over the educational history of the county it can be seen that the early seeds of education which were sown by such illustrious men as Professor May and others are being reaped by our present generation in their modern building and the up-to-date instructors.

#### ADAMS TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS.

The present status of the schools in Decatur county may be discussed by townships. Adams township has three consolidated schools and one district school. The largest of these schools is located at St. Paul. This is a commissioned high school and its history and developments will be taken up later. The next consolidated school in this township in point of size is located at Adams. This school is equipped with a modern building and, in addition to the regular grade work, three years of high school work are taught. Four hacks serve as a means of transportation to the children who attend this school and five teachers administer to the intellectual wants of the children. The third consolidated school is located at St. Omer. The regular grade work is taught in this school, but the high training is secured at St. Paul. The district school is supplied by one teacher, who has charge of all the grades.

#### CLAY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS.

Clay township has within its limits two consolidated schools and two district schools, in addition to a joint district school which accommodates the pupils from Clay and Sand Creek township and is located on the township line. The largest of these consolidated schools is located at Burney. This is a commissioned high school and affords excellent opportunities to the pupils of this section for high-school training. The children are furnished with seven hacks to bring them to the seat of learning in the township and the school is well attended. Although the building is large and the school



has been provided with sufficient teachers to accommodate them in the past, still in the last few years, owing to the general trend of children from the district schools to the consolidated schools, the capacity of the school has been crowded to the limit and plans are already under way to enlarge the present building in order that the increase in enrollment can be properly taken care of. Clifty is also provided with a consolidated school, but only for grade work. This school has three teachers who administer to the grade pupils. Two district schools are located in the rural districts of the township and are each supplied with one teacher, who has charge of all the grades.

#### CLINTON TOWNSHIP CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL.

Clinton township was originally divided into four school districts, each district being accommodated with a one-room school building. The school enumeration of Sandusky having increased, it was necessary to add another room to the building there.

The first steps toward consolidation were made in 1894 under rather singular circumstances. A teacher had been hired to teach the school at district No. 2. When the day arrived for the opening of the school year the teacher was present, but not a pupil put in his appearance, as they had all entered the Sandusky schools. The teacher continued going to the school and finally the trustee compromised with her for one-half of her salary. This was the beginning of consolidation in Clinton township.

The enrollment steadily increased and in 1896 another room was added. In 1900 one school hack was introduced for the transportation of children to and from the Sandusky schools. The second district school to be abandoned was district No. 4, which occurred in 1905. The following year the third and last district school was abandoned, with the resignation of the teacher in charge of that school.

This left Sandusky the center of the schools of Clinton township and, with the added enrollment from the other three districts, the school building was not large enough to accommodate the pupils. In August, 1907, another room was added to relieve the congestion. In 1898 the two-year high school course was offered and in 1907-08 the rooms were divided and a teacher placed in charge of each room. The state superintendent's report shows that Clinton was the first township in the state to have a completely consolidated school, with necessary conveyances to carry the children to and from school. All was progressing very nicely until January 21, 1910, when the entire building and its contents were destroyed by fire. The term of

school was unfinished and it was necessary to finish the school in the Methodist church and three private dwellings.

In the spring of the same year (1910) Trustee E. L. Meek let the contract for a \$15,750 school building, which was to be erected during the summer. The building is located on the north side of town and on the Ft. Wayne pike. It is on the site of the old building, but the grounds were enlarged by the purchase of an acre of ground. This building was completed in the fall of 1910 and school was held in it for the first time that year. The building is one of the most beautiful, modern and well-equipped consolidated school buildings in this part of the state. There are three rooms on the first floor for the different grades and the second floor is taken up with the eighth-grade room, high school room and auditorium.

The enrollment for 1915 in the high school was seventeen. There were four grade teachers and the high school superintendent. The teachers, and grades over which they have charge, are as follow: Kirby Payne, high school; Carrie Thackery, seventh and eighth grades; Janie Martin, fifth and sixth grades; Mary Cushman, third and fourth grades; Mabel McDowell, primary. The basement is divided into two large play rooms, one for each sex. Six hacks are utilized in transporting the children to and from this seat of learning. Consolidation has proved successful in Clinton township on account of the small size of the township and the excellent financial condition at the present time.

#### FUGIT TOWNSHIP.

Fugit township has not made such rapid advancements in the lines of consolidation as some of her sister townships. The only consolidated school in this township is located at Clarksburg. This school received its commission in 1913, graduating the first class in 1914. This school is well attended and has a very modern course of study. Kingston has one of the most unique schools in the county. A new country school building was erected, at a cost of thirteen thousand dollars. It was the intention of the founder to form a community school. This building has two rooms, with a large assembly room in the basement, covering the entire first floor, and is modern in every respect. One striking feature of this building is the lighting system which includes a large skylight. At present only one teacher is employed in this school and the attendance the past year was only twenty. A Catholic school is located at St. Morris. This building is owned by the church, but the teachers are employed by the township and are approved by the citizens

of this parish. The building has two rooms and two teachers are regularly employed. There are also two district schools in this township.

#### JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

Jackson township has the greatest number of consolidated schools, no district schools remaining in this township. The five consolidated schools in this township are located as follows: Newburg, Waynesburg, Alert, Big-horn and Sardina. The four first-named schools have only two teachers, who administer to the wants of the children, while the last named has three. Two years high school work is taught in all of these schools, in addition to the regular course of study for the grades.

#### MARION TOWNSHIP.

Marion township, owing to its unfortunate location in not being supplied with the proper railroad or interurban facilities, has made no advancement in the line of consolidation. The condition of the roads in this township make consolidation almost an impossibility. There are eleven district schools located over this township and one teacher supplies each of these schools. There is also a parochial school, located at Milhousen. Four teachers are employed to administer to the children of this locality. One of these teachers, however, is employed by the public, the church exercising power in the choosing of this teacher.

#### SALT CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Salt Creek township has lately made rapid advancements in the consolidation of its schools. In 1909 a school building was erected at Newpoint, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. This school maintains a three-years high school, in addition to the grade work. There are also three district schools remaining in this township, which have not been changed by the consolidation. Among those, who, in more recent years, served as teachers in the schools of Salt Creek township, are: G. M. Gard, Ellen Moody, James D. White, John H. Bobbitt, Dennis O'Dea, H. W. Jenkins, Mrs. H. W. Jenkins, Ed Glidewell, Grover C. Harding. J. G. Collicott, now superintendent of the Indianapolis city schools, received his elementary education in this township, as did also Lewis A. Harding, prosecuting attorney, and Anna B. Collins, of Indiana University. Fred Baas was principal of the Newpoint schools in 1915.

## SAND CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Sand Creek township has one consolidated school, located at Letts. This school building has been remodeled and affords very modern and commodious quarters for the young aspirants for knowledge. This school also presents a commissioned high school course of study and the enrollment for the past year totaled forty-four. Westport also has an up-to-date high school, with an enrollment of eighty-five. There are six outlying district schools in this township, which have not experienced the advantages of a consolidated district.

## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

Washington township has two consolidated grade schools, supplied with two teachers each. There are also three district schools in this township, which cannot be consolidated. The high school students of this township are accommodated by the Greensburg high school, which is dealt with in its proper place.

Summarizing the different township schools of this county, it can be easily seen that there is a marked advancement toward consolidation and centralization. The citizens of this county, as in other counties, are beginning to realize the greater advantages which can be gained from a consolidated school, which affords more high-salaried teachers and better educational facilities than could be received through many scattered one-room schools.

## WESTPORT HIGH SCHOOL.

The first school at Westport was taught in the year 1845 by a Mr. Biddinger. This school house was a one-room log building, having seats around the wall, a large stove in the center of the room and recitation benches arrayed in a quaint manner around the stove. These benches and seats were made of rough-hewn logs which were not promoters of comfort. The sessions of the school during the first winters after the building was erected never exceeded three months and the average attendance was estimated at about thirty.

In 1859 this log building was replaced by a two-story brick structure, erected on the site of the old log school house. The upper room was used as a town hall, but soon the school attendance was increased and consequently this was used for class purposes. Mr. Strickland taught the first school in this new brick building. He also was the first teacher to introduce



high-school studies in the curriculum of the school course. When he retired from the field of teaching this work was dropped and was not taught again until the present school building was erected. Under Mr. Strickland's leadership the attendance of the school was increased, the average then being about sixty-five pupils. Two teachers were regularly employed and, some years, the attendance was increased until it was necessary to add another teacher.

The increased attendance also brought about the necessity for larger and more modern quarters, but this could not be provided at that time, so a frame room was built for a temporary means of relieving the congestion. The publication of a weekly school paper was begun about this time and became quite an interesting factor among the students. After the building of the railroad, the attendance of the school rapidly increased and the school soon boasted of an attendance of one hundred and twenty students. The majority of these were enrolled at the brick building, as the frame room was only used for the primary grades. The average length of the term was from six to seven months, and from three to four teachers were employed.

The present building was erected in 1896. It was originally a two-story brick building, containing four rooms and two halls. The average attendance at that time was about two hundred and twenty-five and from four to five teachers were employed. In 1909 the building was enlarged by the addition of two new rooms. The original two upper rooms were converted into one large auditorium and a laboratory, and a recitation room was also added to the basement.

The school was commissioned in 1909-10 and additional improvements have been made to the building since that time. The school is furnished with modern equipment and devices, is both comfortable and attractive and has an average attendance at present of two hundred and eighty. The school has been under the leadership of Supt. Oscar W. Holmes since its commission to the first grade ranks. Superintendent Holmes is a graduate of Indiana State Normal School and ranks with the foremost educators of the day. Since its commission Westport high school has graduated eighty students from its ranks who are now engaged in various callings.

Athletics is a great factor in the regular work of the school life. Domestic science and agriculture have also been added to the curriculum of studies. The common school attendance averages two hundred and the high school attendance is placed at eighty. Seven teachers are employed.

## ST. PAUL SCHOOL.

The history of the St. Paul schools, as with all of the early schools of Indiana, begin with the little log school house. In the year 1851, when the surrounding country was one vast wooded territory, with scattered settlements, there was established a small school in the little village of St. Paul. This was the beginning of an educational program, the end which has not been reached, but is still pushing ever higher. The interior of this room was characteristic of all the early log school buildings. A large fireplace occupied one end of this building, and at the opposite end was a small platform, on which the early pedagogue held his sway. The desks were made of half logs, with their flat face hewn smooth, and the seats were similarly constructed. Along the wall was a long, smooth, wide board used for writing. The three R's—reading, writing and arithmetic—were the only subjects taught. Such was the beginning of the school system in St. Paul.

About the year 1856 the quarters of the school was changed to a frame building, but this was only a temporary change. The next move was to the second story of what was then known as the Ridlen building, but is now occupied by Mr. Johannes' buggy shop. Some of the teachers who saw active service there were Mr. Madison, George Stotsenburg, David Sutton, Dr. and Mrs. Ballard. Spelling was one of the chief diversions in the schools of this time and many good spellers were developed.

After several years, the school again shifted and this time established in the building which is now the home of Henry Neidigh. The growth of the schools had reached such proportions at this time that two rooms and two teachers were required. Among the names of the teachers who served at this time were James Scull, Mrs. D. J. Ballard, Eunice Paul, Charles Powner, George Stotsenburg and Doctor Ballard. One of these who is especially remembered by the pupils is Charles Powner. Mr. Powner was a near-sighted man, of little training, and the boys found plenty of time and opportunity for fun at his expense. It was during this period of school that the people became divided on religious and political views and this, in turn, split up the school system. There were then established three different schools, besides the remnant of the public school. They were located as follows: One in the Methodist church, one in the Catholic church, and one in the Floyd building. The latter was a private school established by the Madison and Woodard families, the former being sectarian schools. This factional difference was soon adjusted and in 1870-71 a new school build-

ing was erected on the site of the present high school building. This was a large, square, brick building erected by Trustee Benjamin Jenkins. It contained six class rooms and a large assembly room. Each morning the entire school would gather in the large assembly room for the opening exercises, which consisted of singing, etc.

Gradually the courses were enlarged by the addition of a few high school subjects, but the exact date of this is unknown, although the first graduates of this one-year course are given as Flo Hoover and Frank Ray. The first teacher in that high school was Mr. Alcott. This was merely an incentive toward the greater work of making this a standard high school. A short time later a three-year course was added and this was maintained until the old building was destroyed by fire. The teachers who assisted in the old building were Mr. Lewark, principal; Mr. Jewett, number four; Mrs. Jewett, number two, and Mrs. Viola Palmerton, number one.

The building was destroyed by fire in 1901 and work was immediately begun on the erection of a new building, but this was not accomplished in time for school work that winter and, in consequence, school was held in the rooms of the Kanouse and Floyd buildings. In 1902 the building was completed, but the courses of study remained the same. A little later the standard for Indiana high schools was raised by the Legislature and Mr. Crawley was placed in charge of the schools. Too much praise cannot be given to Mr. Crawley for his efforts in raising the St. Paul schools to their present standing. The advancement of this high school has been marked and, with the assistance of the patrons, Mr. Crawley has been able to meet all of the demands of the state board of education and keep St. Paul high school in the first rank of commissioned schools of the country. It was commissioned in the fall of 1911.

Nearly all lines of work are now demanding a high-school education. Competition is driving men in every field of endeavor to make better preparation. As a result, advanced schools for farming, business, theology, medicine and law are demanding that students shall have completed a standard four-year high school course before taking up their college or advanced work. The patrons of this school have fully realized this and, in order that their children might be able to go forth into the world and cope with graduates from other schools on an equal footing, they have seen to it that their high school should add all of the different advanced courses in learning and offer every inducement for the home training.

The high school has graduated approximately thirty-five students in

their four years of commissioned standing. Professor Crowley have served as superintendent for the school for thirteen years and deserves a good portion of the praise due this high school. There are seven teachers and two hundred students at present in grades and high school. The high school alone employs three teachers and has an enrollment of fifty students.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE CHURCHES OF DECATUR COUNTY.

There is no more potent factor in the life of any community than the church, and the influence of an active denomination is measured by the wholesome spirit which may be found in the community. More than ninety years have elapsed since the first settlers of Decatur county made their permanent homes here, and within that time more than ninety churches have arisen in the county. Many of them have long since closed their careers, but the good which they accomplished still remains. There are those who maintain that the people of today are not as religious as the pioneers of the state, but things religious are not to be measured by human standards. The mere fact that there are fewer churches in Decatur county today than fifty years ago does not argue that the people are any the less religious; neither does it imply that the life of people is of a lower standard than it was in the "good old days," which some like to think were nearer the millenium.

Churches may come and churches may go, but a better civilization is not gauged by the mere number of churches. Many factors have entered into the disappearance of the rural church, and not the least of these is the shifting of population from the country to the towns and villages. For this same reason, there are hundreds and even thousands of public schools throughout Indiana which have been discontinued within the past twenty-five years. Many a neighborhood which had from fifty to seventy-five school children half a century ago cannot even support a school with the minimum number of twelve required by the law at the present time. This ever-increasing drift from rural to urban centers affects not only the church and the school, but our national life along all lines. Nor does it mean, in any sense of the word, that we are becoming less religious because of fewer churches, or more ignorant because of the abandonment of so many rural schools.

There can be no questioning the fact that Decatur county has passed through a marked religious change during the past three-quarters of a century, nor can it be denied that things might be better. Yet it must be admitted that the people of the county are living lives today much closer to the Ten Commandments than ever before. History tells us that our good fore-

fathers were not always as good as we have usually pictured them; could we of today see them in their daily life we would be surprised at some of the things they did. The great majority of them drank—and drank whisky; they were very profane; they were prone to fight; they grafted in public affairs just as has been done since; they had many shortcomings which we have not been accustomed to associate with them. Yet, they were religious—though the preacher often worked his sermon out with the aid of a whisky flask. In those cold churches of the twenties and thirties the bottle was called upon to supply the heat denied by the old fireplace or rude stove. It was the way people lived in those days; in their view a bottle of whisky was as essential to the farmer on harvest day as the bottle of machine oil is today.

Under truly pioneer conditions did our forefathers live for many years, and to see them file into church on Sunday morning in the thirties, one would certainly think so. An old settler, writing in 1830, tells of going to church at Westport, "where most of the congregation was barefooted. Some wore moccasins, some buckskin breeches and hunting shirts, with coon, fox or 'possum-skin caps on their heads. Many of the caps were ornamented with fox tails. One old man and his spouse rode to the meeting on a big red bull."

According to the custom of the period, the men sat on the left side of the center aisle and the women on the right. Husbands and wives and sweethearts went to and from church together, but sat apart during services, lest their attention be distracted from the parson's discourse.

Says Mrs. Martha Stevens, writing of a Greensburg church of early days: "Then ladies used to sing treble, and you would often hear a lady away above the congregation. They thought it was fine, but, under the new way, the men sing the tenor. The hymns were lined, as it was then called. Two lines would be given out by the minister or clerk, then sung by the congregation, then two more lines would be read and sung."

Our forefathers in Decatur county did not worship in beautiful churches, but gathered in their own homes, in school buildings, in groves when the weather permitted, and even in barns. They neither grumbled nor complained, but were joyful and happy with the lot Providence had seen fit to give them. Their services were very irregular; they had no Sabbath schools and no musical instruments. Without any of the modern attractions which are now deemed a necessary part of the church, they worshipped in a quiet, simple and very unostentatious manner. Often weeks must pass without a regular minister, and then some pioneer conducted the services, if not in an

orthodox manner, yet with that true Christian spirit which found favor with the Giver of all good things. In these humble meetings—and often the little band did not number over a dozen—they thanked God for what He had vouchsafed them and asked Him to continue His blessings toward them. And who is there to say that they did not do all they could to advance the kingdom of Heaven.

We want a religion that softens the step and tunes the voice to melody and fills the eye with sunshine and checks the impatient exclamation and harsh rebuke. A religion that is polite, deferential to superiors, courteous to inferiors, and considerate to friends; a religion that goes into the family and keeps the husband from being cross when the dinner is late and the wife from fretting when he tracks the floor with his muddy boots, and makes him mindful of the scraper and doormat; keeps the mother patient when the baby is cross, and amuses the children as well as instructs them; cares for the servants besides paying them promptly; projects the honeymoon into the harvest moon; makes a happy home like the Easter fig tree, bearing in its bosom at once the beauty of the ripened fruit. We want a religion that shall interpose between the ruts, gullies and the rocks of the highway of life and the sensitive souls that are traveling over them. And who shall say that the simple faith of our forefathers was not as potent in bringing all this about as the religion preached today.

The Baptists and Methodists were the first to establish churches in Decatur county, and they were closely followed by a number of other denominations. The Presbyterians and Christians (erroneously called the Campbellites) were early in the field, and by the middle of the last century more than fifty churches were scattered throughout the county. The Protestants had the field to themselves until 1840, when the first Catholic church was established, and since that year the Catholics have steadily grown in power and influence. They have many strong congregations in the county, most of their members being of German birth or descent. But, whether Protestant or Catholic, the influence of the church is always exerted in behalf of cleaner living and for a higher conception of the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God.

In the discussion of the churches of Decatur county it seems best to submit a list of all the churches, both active and discontinued, which have appeared at one time or another in the history of the county. For the purpose of location, they are given by townships, and by section if in the rural districts.

It may be a surprise to many people of Decatur county to know that

there have been more than ninety different church organizations in the county since its organization in 1822, but a study of the religious history of the county reveals the fact that there have been that many in existence at one time or another. A surprisingly large number of these churches are now discontinued and many others are struggling with a few members and irregular services.

Churches representing the following denominations have been found in the county: African Methodist Episcopal, Baptist (three kinds), Christian (Campbellites), Christian (Newlights), Christian Science, Christian Union, Episcopal, Free Will Methodists, Holiness, Lutheran, Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, Pentecostal, Presbyterian (two branches), United Brethren and Catholic.

In many cases the location of the church is designated by section. Where the section is given it refers to the section, township and range of the particular civil township. The list follows:

Adams Township—Baptist, Adams, Mt. Moriah (discontinued) and New Little Flat Rock; Catholic, St. Paul; Christian, Adams and St. Paul; Methodist, Adams, St. Omer (discontinued), St. Paul and Shiloh (discontinued); Presbyterian, St. Omer (discontinued); Union church, section 34; United Brethren, St. Omer and Union Chapel.

Clay Township—Baptist, Burney and Mt. Hebron (discontinued); Christian, Clifty; Methodist, Clifty and Burney; unknown, section 36, south.

Clinton township—Christian, section 2; Methodist, Sandusky.

Fugit Township—Catholic, St. Maurice; Christian, Clarksburg; Methodist, Clarksburg, Mt. Carmel and St. Maurice (discontinued); Presbyterian, Memorial (section 20), Kingston, Clarksburg and Springhill.

Jackson Township—Baptist, Dry Fork (discontinued), Mt. Pleasant, Sardinia, and Mt. Pisgah (discontinued); Christian, Waynesburg; Christian Union, Alert; Methodist, Alert, Asbury (discontinued) and Wesley Chapel; Presbyterian, Forest Hill and Sardinia (discontinued); United Brethren, Sardinia.

Marion Township—Baptist, Sandcreek, Rock Creek and Antioch; Catholic, Millhousen; Christian, Antioch (discontinued); Methodist, Burke's Chapel and Mt. Pleasant; unknown, section 27, north.

Salt Creek Township—Baptist, Roszburg; Catholic, Enochsburg; Christian, Mechanicsburg and Newpoint; German Lutheran, section 26; German Methodist, section 23; Methodist, section 32.

Sand Creek Township—Baptist, Mt. Aerie, Letts, Friendship, Westport,



and section 28; Christian, Westport; Methodist, Westport, Letts, section 23 and section 18, south; United Brethren, Fredonia; unknown, section 4, east.

Washington Township—Baptist, Liberty, Sandcreek (moved to Marion township); Baptist, section 28; Christian (Newlight); Methodist, section 15, south.

Greensburg—African Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Christian Science, Episcopal, Holiness, Lutheran, Methodist Protestant, Methodist Episcopal (two churches), Presbyterian.

One difficulty in locating these churches is in identifying the church with the local name. Three Sand Creek churches, two Antiochs, two Mt. Pleasants, two Mt. Moriahs and two Flat Rocks have been found. One church still shelters two separate congregations—Lower Union—in Marion township. The Baptists call it Rock Creek and the United Brethren know it as Lower Union, the oldest title by which the people of that neighborhood know it. One of the Antiochs was torn down several years ago, moved to Greensburg and is now the home of the Pentecostal (Holiness) band of worshippers. Another place of worship in the county seat enjoys the suggestive title of Ark.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

In 1915 there were eighteen active Methodist churches in Decatur county, as follow, the names of the pastors also being given: Greensburg, First, J. H. Doddridge; Greensburg, Centenary, J. Ed. Murr; Greensburg, Colored, T. W. Daniels; Milford, J. A. Gardner; Adams, J. A. Gardner; Westport, T. J. Lewis; Letts, T. J. Lewis; Mt. Pleasant, T. J. Lewis; Burk's Chapel, T. J. Lewis; Clarksburg, C. E. Hester; Sandusky, C. E. Hester; Mt. Carmel, C. E. Hester; Newpoint, H. A. Broadwell; Middlebranch, H. A. Broadwell; New Pennington, H. A. Broadwell; Alert, William De Hart; Wesley Chapel, William De Hart; Burney, Joseph H. Laramore.

Although there were Methodist meetings in Decatur county at a very early date, little is known of the activities of this denomination before 1835, as most of the work was done in small classes and no records of them were kept. But it is known that among the first settlers of this county were hardy, two-fisted Methodist ministers, ready to turn a hand in the clearing and at other rough toil or to preach, pray and exhort. Uncultured and unkempt as most of them were, yet they brought with them a message that could not pass unheeded, for they were marching in the vanguard of a militant denomination.



CENTENARY M. E. CHURCH.



BAPTIST CHURCH.



OLD FIRST M. E. CHURCH.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.



FIRST M. E. CHURCH.

SOME GREENSBURG CHURCHES.



Most of these early ministers of the gospel have been forgotten, the names of many of them have been lost, forever, and stately temples tower high on the sites of the rude cabins in which they first summoned sinners to repentance. The names and deeds of a few of them are still preserved through the lapse of almost a century.

James Murray was the first of the Methodist circuit riders to enter the "New Purchase." Then there was James Havins, "Old Samuel" they called him, who for fifty years rode circuits and served as presiding elder. There were John Havens and John Linville, camp-meeting singers, well worthy of the name, who would compare most favorably with the evangelistic singers of today. Nor should Daniel Stogsdill be forgotten, "old Dan Stogsdill," who walked more miles, organized more churches and preached more free sermons than any other man in Decatur county. And last, there was James Hobbs, one of the first settlers at Clarksburg, and an old man then. "Preacher of the gospel—ordained," he styled himself. Besides, there were many others, but their names have been lost to the historian.

#### METHODISM IN GREENSBURG.

During the ninety-three years which have elapsed since 1822 the Methodist church has been an active factor in the religious life of Greensburg. Its history, like that of Ancient Gaul, may be divided into three parts, for in the ninety-three years there have been no less than three separate congregations in the city—and all three claiming to be founded on the doctrines as enunciated by the Wesleys. The historian in attempting to follow these three distinct congregations from their inception down to the present time is seriously handicapped by not having access to all the several church records. Then again, there is no question which excites such violent prejudices as does the religious question. The causes leading to the various divisions in the Methodist church in Greensburg are fairly well defined, yet an impartial historian in such a case would not dare to rely altogether on what people have to say concerning the matter. The following discussion of the First Methodist, Centenary and Methodist Protestant churches of Greensburg is based on church records which have been examined, on articles appearing in the newspapers at the time the various divisions occurred, and, finally, on personal interviews with people representing each of the three churches. An attempt has been made to treat the question from a historical and not a doctrinal viewpoint.



## FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

It should be stated in the beginning that there was only *one* Methodist Episcopal church in Greensburg up to the spring of 1866, the year when the first division occurred which resulted in the establishment of the present Centenary church. These two congregations still maintain their separate organizations. The third Methodist church was the result of a split in the congregation of the Centenary church in the spring of 1877, but this third branch has long since disappeared. With this brief statement of facts, the history of the First Methodist church, the only one in the city from 1822 to 1866, is taken up and followed to the time of the great schism of 1866.

In a ponderous volume, entitled "Church Record," the history of the beginning of Methodism in Greensburg has been preserved. While Rev. Charles Tinsley was pastor of the First Methodist church in 1881, he prepared a "History of Methodism in Greensburg, Indiana," which appears on the first few pages of the above mentioned "Church Record." His account was undoubtedly prepared with a view of presenting the main facts and the historian uses it verbatim:

"John Robbins, who is living at this date (September 13, 1881), in Greensburg, states that he settled near Mt. Pleasant Methodist Episcopal church, March 28, 1822, four miles south of Greensburg. The first Methodist sermon he heard in the county was about September of the same year by Rev. James Murray, of the Connersville circuit—then of the Ohio conference—at the double log cabin of Col. Thomas Hendricks [in Greensburg]. Mr. Robbins immediately afterward received authority by letter from Mr. Murray to organize a class, which he did at his own house, and from this [grew] the first religious organization in the county. After this he [Robbins] attended the organization of the Baptist church at Sand Creek.

"The members of this first Methodist class were John and Ruth Robbins, Robert Courtney, Elizabeth Garrison, John H. Kilpatrick and Mary, his wife—seven persons, and soon afterward [they were joined by] Jacob Steward, A. L. Anderson, Mary Garrison, Tamzen Connor, Lydia Groendyke, Rev. Wesley White and wife Elizabeth, and James and Polly Armstrong.

"When the Greensburg class was formed Jacob Stewart was transferred to it. [Where he had previously belonged is not stated.] The Robbins neighborhood has remained a preaching place ever since. In 1834 a log

church was built and called Mt. Pleasant—it was about twenty-four by thirty feet, and in 1870 this was replaced by the present frame of about thirty-six by fifty feet, at a cost of three thousand dollars. [This is the church four miles south of Greensburg.] The most remarkable revival at this place was conducted by Landy Cravens, when sixty persons united with the church. Rev. George Winchester, the present [1881] pastor of the Greensburg church, to which this society belongs, says it is the strongest society on the circuit. It now [1881] has a membership of eighty and is prosperous. [This whole paragraph seems to have no connection with the Greensburg church, but it given just as Rev. Tinsley wrote it.]

“Aaron Wood succeeded Mr. Murray for two months in the fall of 1823. He preached at Greensburg, Robbin’s, McClain’s, Emlie’s, John Miller’s and John Shultz’s in the county. Mr. Wood attended camp meeting on Shultz land, September 22, 1823, but, meeting Jesse Hale at John Havens’ house, he found he [Wood] was in the bounds of Mr. Hale’s circuit and withdrew. [At this point in the narrative of Rev. Tinsley he gives a list of the pastors of the Greensburg church from 1822 to 1866, and then a list of those serving the First Methodist church up to the time his article was written in 1881. The complete list of pastors will be given later in the chapter.]

“Father Robbins and Ezra Lathrop recollect the preaching of Jesse Hale at Col. Thomas Hendricks’ house, where all preachers were welcome. Mr. Hendricks was a Presbyterian, yet a generous-hearted gentleman. His first cabin was situated near where Porter’s old saw-mill stood. He built the first house on the public square and invited the preaching to that house. John Havens, a local preacher, who supplied the circuit, probably organized the first class. It consisted, perhaps, of Jacob Stewart and wife, Silas Stewart and wife, John Ford and wife, Jared P. Ford and wife, Martin and Nancy Jamison, Isaac Plue and ——— Plue. John F. Roszell and his brother Nehemiah were members in 1826. John Ford was class leader and a good one. The Roszells and Plues were blacksmiths—the former the first in the county.

“Rev. Joseph Tarkington was appointed to the circuit, then called the Rushville circuit, in the fall of 1829. William Evans, his assistant, was married by Tarkington, the latter still being single. Evans lived in a log cabin on the corner of Franklin and Central avenues. Brother Tarkington’s first sermon was in the grand jury room of the court house—southwest upper room. There were about thirty persons present. This room was frequently used by the Presbyterians and Baptists. Reverend Lowrey was

the Presbyterian minister and Rev. Daniel Stogsdale, the Baptist minister. Jacob Stewart was the class leader and steward. James Freeman was a local preacher. It was a four-weeks' circuit."

Thus closes the history of "Methodism in Greensburg," as written by Rev. Charles Tinsley in 1881. He devotes two pages and a half to a brief summary of the lives of Joseph Tarkington, Asbury Wilkinson and Lewis Hurlbut, but of the history of the church since 1829 there is no account. It is to be regretted that he did not go into a discussion of the memorable division of 1866, but of this schism he makes no mention whatever, nor, of course, says anything of the split in the Centenary church in 1877. It is to be hoped that the Reverend Tinsley was a better preacher than he was a historian. In this "Church Record" is given a list of the probationers from March 7, 1863 (Martha Carter), to August 28, 1892 (David Mason Murphy). There is a record of several classes, but most of them are undated, the last date appearing being September, 1887. An "Alphabetical Record of Members in Full Connection" occupies several pages and was evidently started after the division in 1866, since the first date noticed is October 6, 1867. The last date of the reception of a member is June 12, 1892. Thirty-four marriages are recorded, dating from December 25, 1867 (William I. Grant and Indiana Mendenhall), to June 8, 1873 (Tamor McGranahan and Ellen Millis). The ministers have indicated the fees they received and it seems that the bridegrooms rated their brides at varying values. Some paid the minister nothing, some one dollar, other two dollars, several ten dollars and one man (Albert T. Beck) gladdened the preacher's heart with twenty dollars.

#### FIRST METHODIST CHURCH (1829-1915).

The Methodists gradually grew in strength and influence from the beginning and when the schism of 1866 occurred they were by far the strongest church in the city. The first house of worship was built on lot 66 in 1834. The lot was purchased, February 23, 1834, for twenty-five dollars. This remained the home of the congregation until 1849, when a two-story brick, forty-five by sixty feet, was built on the lot now occupied by the church. For a quarter of a century the congregation worshipped in this building and it was while they were still using it that dissension arose which ultimately divided the congregation. During Doctor Gillett's pastorate arrangements were made to erect a new house of worship.

The present building was finished and dedicated on December 12, 1875. Bishop Bowman, of St. Louis, preached the dedicatory sermon and the news-

paper account of the meeting says, "Many wept as the eloquent bishop touched the sympathies of the many hearts that were moved by his eloquence." Reverend Johnson, of Spring Hill, and Rev. C. P. Jemkins, of Centenary, were in the pulpit. Hon. Will Cumback made a statement at the close of the sermon that the church had cost thirty thousand dollars and that twenty-two thousand seven hundred dollars had already been raised. There was still two thousand dollars of unpaid pledges. The Bishop asked for six thousand dollars and the generous assemblage raised four hundred dollars more than this amount before the meeting closed. David Lovett and Doctor Bracken gave five hundred dollars each; Mr. Cumback, Walter Braden, John and William Thomas, three hundred dollars each. The building is fifty by ninety feet and will accommodate six hundred in the auditorium. The church spent about six thousand dollars in improvements in 1912. The present membership is about seven hundred.

#### THE SCHISM OF 1866.

History records that every innovation introduced into our social fabric is met with more or less opposition. An enumeration of all the causes which have lead to schisms in churches would reveal some very interesting things. Before the Civil War the question of slavery divided thousands of congregations into two rival camps. The use of intoxicants has been a prolific cause of dissension, and at least one church in Decatur county split on this question. Secret societies have been the means of creating hundreds of new congregations, especially in the United Brethren church. Missionary work, and even Sunday schools, have been opposed in Baptist churches in the past, and thus have arisen "Hardshell" and "Softshell" Baptists. But of all the nonsensical causes for church divisions, the question of music seems to the modern way of thinking the most ludicrous. Just why so many of our good forefathers should have thought that an organ was an instrument of the devil is hard to say—but they did. Not only were many of them violently opposed to instrumental music, but they refused to associate in church relationship with those who countenanced such an innovation.

And the innocent organ—which today peals forth in both Methodist churches in Greensburg—was responsible for the schism of 1866. Christian charity and forbearance were thrown to the winds; the precepts of the thirteenth chapter of Corinthians were forgotten; "love thy neighbor as thyself" was relegated to oblivion; men and women who had worshipped in the same pews for years, who had knelt around the altar rail in humble confession to



their Maker, now separated their ways. And the innocent organ was to blame.

CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH.

Rev. J. B. Lathrop, of Greensburg, then presiding elder, presided over the meeting on March 1, 1866, when one hundred members withdrew from the First Methodist church (which before the schism had two hundred and seventy-eight members) for reasons above stated. Services were held in the high school building until the church was ready for occupancy. On March 18 they bought a lot for a new building; ten days later they formally organized a church; on April 1 they began work on their new building, although the cornerstone was not laid until August 25, 1866. By the last day of the year the lower story was ready for the first service, the sermon on that occasion being preached by Rev. F. C. Holliday. The building remained unfinished during 1867, and in January of the following year work was resumed and the auditorium completed. The dedicatory services were held on July 12, 1868. The building cost nineteen thousand dollars, of which amount the late Gabriel Woodfill contributed fifteen hundred dollars. This building is still in use, although extensive improvements were made on it in 1912. A new furnace, choir loft, inside stairway, opera chairs, hardwood floor, new roof and a refrescoed auditorium were the main improvements. Six months were consumed in making the repairs, which cost a little over five thousand dollars, three thousand of which had been raised before the church was rededicated on Sunday, April 6, 1912. Bishop D. H. Moore, of Cincinnati, preached the sermon, and at the end of his discourse appealed for help to cancel the debt. The sum of \$1,009.80 was raised at the morning service, and the amount was increased to \$1,288.55 at the evening service, leaving a debt of only \$836.45. A parsonage, adjoining the rear of the church, had been constructed in 1904, under the ministry of Rev. J. E. Fisher. During the present pastorate of Rev. J. E. Murr the church has been cleared of debt.

The Centenary church, born under the influence of those opposed to the use of the organ in the church, waxed and grew strong. A revival under Rev. G. L. Curtis in 1867 resulted in the addition of sixty new members, and another revival during the winter of 1869-70, under the same pastor, added eighty-two more to the membership. The present membership is three hundred and fifty. About twelve of the charter members are still living. In June, 1867, a Sunday school was organized, which has continued to hold regular services from that date. Wesley Chapter, Epworth League, was organized February 23, 1893, and it has been a potent force in the life

of the church during its whole existence. The league now has a membership of forty-seven.

It has been said that the church grew in strength from year to year, but history must record a lamentable division which took place in the church in 1877. Starting out with the avowed determination of never allowing an organ in the church, the passing of years brought about a change of sentiment in some of the members. Before a decade had passed away it was discovered that some of the children were drifting to the Sunday school of the First Methodist church, and inquiry revealed the fact that the hated organ was the cause of the deflection. The death of some of the more radical anti-organists, the wise foresight of some of the leaders, and the wish to keep the congregation together, finally was the cause of an organ being installed, for Sunday school purposes only. Evidently the once despised instrument had won some friends in the church, and it was not long before the organ was being carried upstairs for church services. This was more than some of the members could stand. Just as they had split off from the mother church in 1866, so did they decide to do the same thing from the Centenary congregation—and thus we come to the third and last division in Methodism in Greensburg.

#### METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

In July, 1877, fifty-two members of the Centenary church withdrew their membership and at once proceeded to build a church on Broadway across the railroad. It was a frame building, thirty by forty-five feet, and cost thirteen hundred dollars. They were not put to an expense for musical instruments, their outlay in the musical line being confined to a nominal sum for hymn books. But there was one fact which they had evidently not considered. They were, in a sense, outside the pale of the Methodist Episcopal church, and were not recognized by the conference. They dropped the suffix Episcopal and denominated themselves the Methodist Protestant church. They added some members to their original roll, and at one time had a membership of something more than a hundred. The main families to throw their support to this third branch of Methodism in Greensburg were those of Gideon Drake, John Robbins, J. E. Roszell, James L. Fugit, Calvin H. Paramore, D. Patton, J. B. Roszell, John A. Turner and C. Boring. They continued to hold together as a separate congregation until the early eighties, when the organization was disbanded. Some of the members returned to one or the other of the two Methodist Episcopal churches, some joined other

churches, but most of them, being well along in years at the time of the division in 1877, have long since gone to the King of that kingdom where church schisms are unknown.

#### EFFORTS TO UNITE FIRST AND CENTENARY CHURCHES.

The discussion of Methodism in Greensburg cannot be dismissed without reference to an effort made in 1909-10 to unite the First and Centenary churches. At that time Rev. T. K. Willis was pastor of the Centenary church and William G. Clinton was presiding elder. At that time the Centenary church was not in a very flourishing condition, and Rev. Willis became convinced in his own mind that the best interests of Methodism would be served by a union of the two churches. He talked over the matter with some of his parishioners and advised them to take out their letters from the Centenary church and place them in the First church. Quite a number followed his suggestion, although their action was deplored by a large portion of the Centenary congregation. Rev. Willis communicated with the presiding elder, Rev. W. G. Clinton, in regard to the union of the two churches and the latter came to Greensburg, called a meeting of the official board of the Centenary church and ordered them to disband and unite with the First church. Evidently the presiding elder had been misinformed in regard to the feelings of the congregation, for he found that most of them were very much opposed to the union. The church absolutely refused to follow his order, and consequently nothing was done by the church as a congregation. However, some individual members withdrew and affiliated with the First church, while others withdrew their membership and still have the letters, having never placed them with any church. At the time the papers of Greensburg took up the agitation, and it seemed to be the opinion of those whose articles appear in the papers that the union of the two churches was a very desirable thing. This movement toward union, which came to a climax in 1910, has been the last concerted effort looking toward a consolidation of the churches. Shortly after this both began to make plans for the complete overhauling of their buildings, and since then have spent more than twelve thousand dollars in improvements. At the present time there does not appear to be any hope of a union for many years yet to come.

PASTORS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, 1822-1866.

The following ministers have served the Greensburg First Methodist Episcopal church: James Murray and I. Taylor, 1822; Aaron Wood, Jesse Hale and George Horn, 1823; John Havens, 1824; Stephen Beggs and John Strange, 1825; N. B. Griffith, 1826; James Havens and John Kerns, 1827-28; Joseph Tarkington and William Evans, 1829; J. B. Sparks and J. C. Smith, 1830; S. W. Hunter and J. Kimble, 1831; C. Bonner and C. Swank, 1832; Joseph Tarkington, 1833; W. M. Dailey, 1834; C. Bonner, 1835; J. Scott and L. M. Reeves, 1836; C. Bonner and A. Bussey, 1837; A. Bussey, Melville Wiley and E. G. Wood, 1838; W. B. Ross, 1839; G. C. Beeks, 1840; J. W. Sullivan, 1841; F. C. Holliday, 1842; J. S. Barwick, 1843; J. A. Brouse, 1844; James Havens, 1845; C. B. Davidson, 1846; J. W. Sullivan, 1847; E. H. Sabin, 1848; J. B. R. Miller, 1849; James Crawford, 1850-51; S. P. Crawford, 1852; A. Wilkinson, 1853; A. Nesbit, 1854; W. W. Hibben, 1855-56; Joseph Cotton, 1857-58; W. W. Snyder, 1859; J. W. Mellender, 1860-61; E. D. Long, 1862; S. Tincher, 1862; Charles Tinsley, 1863-64; W. Terrill, 1865-66.

With the schism of 1866 begins two separate Methodist churches in Greensburg and both have been independent charges from that date down to the present time. The following ministers have served the First church: R. M. Barnes, 1866-69; S. T. Gillette, 1870-72; M. L. Wells, 1873-74; L. G. Adkinson, 1875-76; Sampson Tincher, 1877-79; Charles Tinsley, 1880-81; John G. Chafee, 1881-84; E. L. Dolph, 1884-88; E. B. Rawls, 1888-92; J. W. Dashiell, 1896-97; F. S. Tincher, 1897-1900; John Poucher, 1900-01; George H. Murphy, 1901-05; A. R. Beach, 1905-08; S. S. Penrod, 1908-10; M. B. Hyde, 1910-13; J. H. Doddridge, 1913 to the present time.

PASTORS OF THE CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH.

The following ministers have had charge of the Centenary church: J. S. Winchester, 1866-67; G. I. Curtis, 1867-71; R. R. Roberts, 1871-73; Harvey Harris, 1873-75; G. P. Jenkins, 1875-76; J. W. Mellender, 1876-78; W. S. Falkenburg, 1878-80; J. H. Doddridge, 1880-82; C. C. Edwards, 1882-85; R. D. Black, 1885-88; W. W. Reynolds, 1888-92; L. D. Moore, 1892-95; W. P. Barnhill, 1895-96; J. Wesley Maxwell, 1898-1901; John Machlin, 1901-03; J. E. Fisher, 1903-06; A. L. Bennett, 1906-08; J. U. Brown,



1908-09; T. K. Willis, 1909-10; H. H. Sheldon, 1910-13; J. W. Wasburn, 1913-14, and J. Ed. Murr, the present pastor.

#### AN UNIQUE COURTSHIP.

Mrs. J. H. Alexander, wife of the oldest physician in Greensburg, is the daughter of Joseph Tarkington. She has preserved her mother's account of her father's very ministerial courtship. It runs as follows:

"One Sunday in the spring of 1831, as I was on horseback riding home from John Cottom and Amanda Clark's wedding, he rode up by my side and asked me if I had any objections to his company, and I said I did not know as I had. He had been stopping at father's on his rounds of the circuit. It was one of his homes. Mr. Tarkington, some time after this, about a month before we were married, as he was starting away on his circuit, handed a letter to my father, which is as follows:

"August 30, 1831.

"Dear Brother and Sister,—You, by this time expect me to say something to you concerning what is going on between your daughter and myself. You will, I hope, pardon me for not saying something to you before I ever named anything to her, though she is of age. Notwithstanding all this, I never intended to have any girl whose parents are opposed. Therefore, if you have any objections, I wish you to enter them shortly. I know that it will be hard for you to give up your daughter to go with me; for I am bound to travel as long as I can, and of course, any person going with me must not think to stay with mother and father.

"Yours very respectfully,

"J. TARKINGTON."

"Father thought that there would be so many dangers, with suffering and poverty, in being a minister's wife, that it was a very serious matter, and though he was a man of very few words, he told me as much, while he appeared to be very gravely affected. But he wrote a note and gave it to him when he came around next time, which is as follows:

"September 4, 1831.

"Reverend Sir:—You express a wish to know if I have any objections to you forming an affinity with my daughter Maria, to which I would reply: If you and my daughter are fully reconciled to the above proposition, which

I have no reason to doubt, I do hereby assent to the same; nevertheless, if such a union should take place, it would be very desirable, if you should settle down here, that you would not be too remote from us.

“Yours most respectfully,

“S. AND M. SLAUSON.

“Pleasant township,

“Switzerland county, Indiana.”

But before the Reverend Joseph rode home with the fair Maria from the wedding, he had a disagreeable duty to perform. In accordance with Methodist discipline, he could not speak of love or matrimony until he had “consulted his brethren.” He hastened to see his presiding elder and, without disclosing his secret, said: “I am thinking of getting married before next conference.” The elder replied, coldly, “I reckon you are old enough, if you ever intend to,” and the interview ended. Shortly after he had “consulted” the presiding elder, the ride referred to occurred.

For many years the Reverend Tarkington rode circuits all over Indiana. When superannuated he came to Greensburg to spend the remainder of his life. He died in 1891, two years after the death of his wife. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1800, and gave practically his entire life to the service of the church.

#### EARLY MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCES.

Rev. Joseph Tarkington, in his autobiography, writes of his early experiences in Greensburg as follows:

“The fall of 1833 conference was held at Madison, and I was sent to the Greensburg circuit. When we came to Greensburg things appeared discouraging. The town had been visited by typhoid fever and many had died—Doctor Teal, George Robinson, Mrs. Silas Stewart and others. There had been no religious services for some time. There was no Methodist church. I preached in private houses, and in David Gageby’s cabinet shop, where the Rogers house now is, on the northwest corner of the public square. I went to work visiting the sick and praying for them. It was a long time before Silas Stewart got restored from his sickness to health of body and mind. Until he got to walking about he thought he owned the town.

“The church members were collected together and had prayer meetings in private houses, such as Freeman’s, Rozell’s, Stewart’s, and sometimes in the old court house. Preaching was had in the old court house, but it was

a hard house to preach in. In the spring I got fifteen dollars from Silas Stewart, five dollars from Jacob Stewart and five dollars from James Robinson and bought the lot that Mr. F. Dowden owned on Franklin street, and built the house that is now on the lot.

"The Greensburg circuit was cut out of the Rushville circuit in 1828. In 1833 it had appointments at Greensburg, Robbins', Burke's, W. Braden's, Cox's, George Miller's, Biggott's, Gray's, Sharpe's, T. Perry's and also at Burney's, south of where Milford now is.

"We lived in a little frame house which stood where S. Bryant built on Franklin street. There the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists had one place of worship. David Gageby was chorister for all alike. The Presbyterian preacher was Rev. Lowrey, the Baptist was Rev. Daniel Stogsdell, and we would all meet together. One would preach, another exhort and the third pray. There was no complaint of large meetings, although some persons would come from eight to ten miles to attend."

#### AFRICAN METHODIST CHURCH.

There have never been many colored people in Greensburg, and at the present time (1915) there are only ten families. In the latter part of the seventies the colored people established a Methodist class and held meetings at private homes and in rented rooms. At one time they held services in a room at the southwest corner of the public square. About 1880 they built a frame house of worship at the corner of Lincoln and North streets, and this has remained their church home since that time. The church records are not available, but it is known that the following ministers have served the church: Jasper Siler, 1906-08; C. P. Smith, 1908-10; Clayton A. D. Evans, 1910-11 (died before the end of his first year and his wife filled out his year); Mrs. Clayton A. D. Evans, 1911-12; W. T. Anderson, 1912-13; William Kelly, 1913-14; T. W. Daniels, 1914 to the present time. The trustees of the church are Samuel T. Evans, Adolphus Frazier and W. S. Meadows. The stewards are Mrs. Irene Hood, W. S. Meadows and Adolphus Frazier. The president of the Mite Missionary Society is Mrs. W. S. Meadows. The Sunday school of fourteen pupils is under the superintendency of W. S. Meadows. The church now has about twenty active members.

#### WESLEY CHAPEL.

Wesley Chapel, located one and one-half miles north of Sardinia, in Jackson township, was organized in 1830. For the first five years services

were held in the homes of the members and the preaching was very irregular. Regular class meetings were held, however, and the infant church grew in strength from year to year. By 1835 there were sufficient members to warrant the erection of a house of worship, and a hewed-log church was raised on an acre of ground donated by Daniel Shafer, one of the leaders in the society. Here the little band worshipped for nearly twenty years before they felt strong enough to build a more pretentious structure. In 1854 the old log house was torn down and replaced by the frame building which is still in use. The records of the church are not available and consequently it is not possible to give a list of the charter members or the faithful pastors who have served the church during the eighty-five years of its existence. Several years ago Wesley Chapel was considered the strongest rural church in the Southeastern Indiana conference. It was often remarked that a minister, after a two- or three-year pastorate at Wesley Chapel, was eligible to the office of presiding elder. There is scarcely a notable minister of the conference who has not at one time or another served as pastor of this church. Of recent years the church has lost many of its strongest members by death or removal and it is now but a shadow of its former self. The church is now on the Elizabethtown circuit and is served by William De Hart. The present membership is thirty-six.

#### SANDUSKY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Sandusky was organized in 1887 by Rev. F. S. Potts and S. W. Troyer, with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. John Harrell, Albert and Kate Higgins, Mrs. Phillip Harrell, W. O. Rozell and others whose names have not been preserved. Until 1892 services were held in private homes and school buildings, but in that year a substantial frame building was erected, which is still used by the congregation. The church has maintained a steady growth from the beginning and now numbers one hundred and thirty members. A Sunday school and an Epworth League are important auxiliaries of the church and exert a wholesome influence on the church and the community in general. The following pastors have served this church: F. S. Potts and S. W. Troyer, S. W. Troyer and James Gillespie, J. W. Allen and H. O. Frazier and J. T. Jones; D. Ryan and D. C. Benjamin, C. E. Hester, J. L. Brown and W. G. Proctor, A. N. Marlatt and C. C. Bonnell and E. I. Larue, E. P. Jewett, L. M. Edwards and A. L. Bear, F. A. Guthrie and P. W. Coryea, F. M. Westhafer and J. L. Brown, T. J. Anthony, J. W. Dashiell, W. M. Creath, J. E. Sidebottom and C. E. Hester.



The Sandusky church was first attached to the Milroy circuit, a large circuit in charge of two ministers, until Rev. F. M. Westhafer took charge in 1905. At that time Sandusky and Shiloh churches were made a separate circuit and placed in charge of Rev. T. J. Anthony, through whose efforts a parsonage was built at Sandusky. It was called the Shiloh circuit until the Shiloh church was discontinued, and then the Sandusky circuit was organized, with Sandusky, Clarksburg and Mt. Carmel churches, in charge of one minister. At the present time it is listed in the conference minutes as the Clarksburg circuit, although it is still composed of the same three churches.

#### CLARKSBURG METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The early history of the Clarksburg Methodist church dates back to the beginning of the settlements in the county. Concerning its first members and ministers very little is known, but the same men who preached in the other Methodist churches of the county from the beginning also filled the pulpit at Clarksburg. The location of the church has been changed at least once. For many years it was at the head of a circuit including Mt. Carmel, Wesley Chapel and Stips Hill (Franklin county). The present building in Clarksburg was erected about 1856 and the church property is valued at fifteen hundred dollars. The congregation numbers one hundred and twenty and maintains an active Sunday school and Epworth League. It has always been a strong congregation.

#### MT. CARMEL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Mt. Carmel Methodist church had its inception in 1823, when a few members met at the home of John Miller, which stood just north of the present residence of Maggie Thorp. The first members were the families of Linville, Hobbs, Jarrard, Griffiths and Hobbsin. The first pastors were probably Aaron Wood and John Havens. Shortly after the organization of the class, Daniel and Nancy Bell joined the society. During 1824-25 Rev. James Hanes was the pastor. This church was one of the leaders in the temperance movement in the county and early organized a Washingtonian Society, every member of the congregation signing the total abstinence pledge. Their first house of worship was a rude log structure, and this has been succeeded by three successive buildings, each being demanded because of the ever-growing congregation. For many years the church took an active part in the life of the community which it seeks to serve, but within the past

few years deaths and removals have decreased the membership until now there are only about thirty members. At the present time the church maintains neither a Sunday school nor an Epworth League. However, this church had the honor of establishing one of the first Sunday schools in the county, and for a long time kept it in operation. It is impossible to give a complete list of all the pastors, with their dates of service, but practically every pastor of the Clarksburg church also preached at the Mt. Carmel church. Among the pastors who have had charge of this congregation may be mentioned the following, arranged chronologically as nearly as possible: Nehemiah B. Griffiths (1826), Robert Burns and Isaac Elsburg (1828), Amos Sparks (1829), Isaac Kimball, Elijah Burriss, William Evans, E. Whitten, Amos Bussey, Charles Bonner, O. H. P. Ash, M. Wiley, Joseph and William Carter, Hayden Hayes, James Conwell, John Winchester, Williamson Gerril, John H. Bruce, Lewis Hurlburt, Jacob Whitman, Samuel P. Crawford, John Wallace, Lemuel Reeves, Wesley Wood, Benjamin F. Gatch, Joseph McCrea. The dates of the remainder of the pastors have been found: J. V. R. Miller, 1851; Landy Havens, 1852; G. P. Jenkins, 1853; John I. Tevis, 1854; Robert S. Beswick, 1856; Benjamin F. Gatch, 1858; Landy Havens, 1859; J. C. Crawford, 1860; Jacob Whitten, 1861; Jacob Whitman, 1862; W. A. Thompson, 1863; J. S. Winchester, 1864-67; R. A. Lameter, 1868; J. S. Alley, 1868-73; J. D. Pierce, 1874; G. E. Neville, 1877; Isaac Turner, 1879; James McCaw, 1880-82; G. W. Winchester, 1882-85; J. H. Norton, 1885; J. D. Current, 1886; D. C. Benjamin, 1887; G. C. Clouds, 1888; Andrew Ayer, 1890; James P. Maupin, 1891-93; Charles Ward, 1895-96; George Reibold, 1896-98; D. A. Wynegar, 1898-00; William Telfer, 1900-02; M. S. Taylor, 1902-06; H. D. Sterrett, 1906-08; T. J. Anthony, 1908-10; E. L. Wimmer, 1910-11; U. M. Creath, 1911-12; J. E. Sidebottom, 1912-14; C. E. Hester, since 1914.

#### MT. PLEASANT CHURCH.

The first Methodist sermon preached in the county was delivered by James Murray, in September, 1822, in the home of Thomas Hendricks, then the only house in Greensburg. The first class to be organized in the county was at Mt. Pleasant, about four miles south of Greensburg. The story is told that John Robbins, one of the early settlers, was at work near his cabin, when two men approached on horseback and bid him the time of day. They talked for a while and then Robbins said: "You men look like Methodist ministers." The strangers admitted that they were and said that

they were on their way to attend conference. Robbins wanted them to stop a while and organize a class, but they stated that they had no time to spare then, but that they would gladly do so on their return. One of these horse-men was John Strange, an early minister.

When conference was over the men returned and organized a class in Robbins' cabin. Another story is to the effect that Robbins himself organized the first class at the direction of James Murray. At any rate, the members of this first class were John and Ruth Robbins, B. Courtney, Elizabeth Garrison, J. H. Kirkpatrick and his wife Mary and Nat Robbins—seven persons. Later additions were James and Polly Armstrong, Jacob Stewart, A. L. Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Mary Garrison, Tamzen Connor, Wesley and Elizabeth White and Lydia Groenendyke.

The first church was built in 1834 and called Mt. Pleasant. It was a log structure, twenty-four feet wide and thirty feet long. This building was used until 1854, when a new church was built. The present pastor is T. J. Lewis, who has built up the church until it numbers one hundred and thirty members.

#### ADAMS METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Adams Methodist church was organized January 14, 1859, by the Rev. Jesse Brockway, of Milford circuit. The church was organized with seven members: William Ryan, Mary E. Ryan, Barnard Young, Jane Young, Minerva Young, J. W. Deem and Lemuel Deem. Some time later, Jonathan Tindall and family and George W. Kirby united with the church. Jonathan Tindall was appointed class leader.

Reverend Brockway preached until the conference of 1859 and was followed by Rev. Jacob Montgomery. In 1860 the class was placed on the Westport circuit by the Rev. Joseph Tarkington. A subscription was taken by the Reverend Tarkington in the spring of 1861 for the erection of a church at Adams. The trustees chosen were J. G. White, J. T. Hamilton, D. N. Hamilton, T. W. Deem and William Ryan.

Rev. James Tarkington, G. W. Pye and T. S. Turk preached until the conference of 1861, when Rev. P. J. Rosencrans was placed in charge. He served one year and Rev. J. B. Lathrop was sent in the fall of 1862. The church was built during his pastorate. The building committee was G. W. Kirby, Lemuel Deem and William Ryan. The church was erected by Anderson Stevens and dedicated on January 14, 1863, by Rev. Samson Tincher, the presiding elder. Adams was then taken into the Milford circuit, with Rev. James McCann as pastor. The Sunday school was organized on Easter

Sunday by Rev. P. J. Rosencrans. The church now has a membership of one hundred and sixty-two and is served by Rev. J. A. Gardner.

#### MILFORD METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Milford Methodist Episcopal church, which is one of the original outposts of Methodism in Decatur county, was organized in 1834, at the home of Samuel Burney, by Rev. William Daily. Early records of the church have disappeared, but it is known that the Rev. Joseph Tarkington was the first pastor appointed to the charge. He was followed by a long line of ministers, earnest, hard working and prayerful, who, with dauntless courage and matchless energy, wrought a church in surroundings that were none too favorable.

The ministers who served this church have been the following: William Daily, James Scott and C. M. Reeves, Amos Busey and Allen Wiley, Elijah Whittier and C. Carey, T. Hurlburt and Edward Burris, L. Havens, Jacob Miller, John Reisling, John T. Keely, Seth Smith, C. B. Jones, Lewis Doles, Lundy Havens and John S. Lewis, Nimrod Benick, John Winchester and J. Crawford.

In 1854, during the pastorate of John Winchester, the church was erected at a cost of nine thousand dollars. Following Reverend Crawford, came Rev. Jessie Brockway, during whose pastorate the Adams church was added to the Milroy circuit. Since then the two charges have been tended by the following ministers: Jacob Montgomery, J. S. Barnes, W. F. Maulsin, James McCann, T. B. McClain, J. S. Winchester, F. S. Woodcock, J. C. White, M. H. Mullin, J. N. Dashiel, John Machlan, J. R. T. Lathrop, T. N. Jones, T. Kennedy, H. Morrow, T. D. Keys, W. R. Plummer, S. C. Clouds, S. A. Morrow, 1900-03; H. M. Elwyn, 1903-4; C. R. Sylvester, 1904-06; P. E. Edwards, 1905-09; J. T. Perry, 1909-12; C. E. Smith, 1912-13, and J. A. Gardner, 1913 to the present time. The present membership of the Milford church is one hundred and ten.

#### ST. PAUL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Methodists organized a class in St. Paul about 1857, and for a time met in the upper room of the building now occupied by the Johannes buggy factory. The early records of the church were destroyed when the parsonage burned in 1914, and hence the early history of the church is lacking in



many of the minor details. About 1858 a union church was erected in the town and it seems to have been used principally by the Methodists and the Lutherans. The fact that the Lutherans outnumbered the Methodists caused the church to be usually known as the Lutheran church. This building was bought by the Christian church in the seventies and is still used by them.

During the Civil War the Methodists erected a house of worship, which remained in use until it was burned down in 1891, during the pastorate of Rev. S. W. Troyer. The same year the congregation erected the present building. Extensive repairs, to the amount of twelve hundred dollars, were made on the building in 1913, while Rev. E. T. Lewis was pastor. The pulpit was changed from the end to the side of the building and a choir loft was installed in the rear of the pulpit. The pews were changed and art windows and frescoing added to the general attractiveness of the interior.

A parsonage was acquired early in the seventies and when it was burned with all its contents in the spring of 1914, the present beautiful parsonage was erected, at a cost of eighteen hundred dollars.

For a number of years the St. Paul church was in the St. Omer circuit, but in 1866, at the close of the first year's pastorate of Robert Roberts, it was placed in the St. Paul circuit, where it has since remained. The ministers since 1859 have been as follow: S. B. Falkinburg, 1859; Asbury Wilkinson 1860; H. M. Lore, 1861; J. H. Stallard, 1862; Joseph Tarkington, 1863; G. M. Hunt, 1864; Robert Roberts, 1865-66; William A. Thompson, 1867; J. S. Winchester, 1868-69; J. Crawford, 1870; B. F. Morgan, 1871; W. S. Jordan, 1872; Asbury Wilkerson, 1873; M. Black, 1874; Landy Haven, 1875; M. H. Molen, 1876; J. D. Pierce, 1877; William Evans, 1878; J. McCaw, 1879; J. D. Pierce, 1880-81; J. T. Pell, 1882-83; J. W. McLain, 1884; D. C. Benjamin, 1885; Henry Morrow, 1886-88; G. W. Winchester, 1889-90; S. W. Troyer, 1891; T. K. J. Anthony, 1892; J. P. Maupin, 1893-94; D. A. Wynegar, 1895-97; G. H. Reibolt, 1898-99; H. C. Pelsor, 1900-01; H. D. Sterrett, 1902-03; C. R. Stout, 1904-05; C. W. Maupin, 1906; J. W. Cordrey, 1907; J. L. Brown, 1908-10; C. S. Whitted, 1911; E. T. Lewis, 1912-13; S. L. Welker, 1914 to the present time. St. Paul has been in the following districts: Greensburg, 1859-62; Indianapolis, 1862-68; Lawrenceburg, 1868-71; Greensburg, 1871-73; Indianapolis, 1873-76; Connersville, 1876-1915. The present district superintendent is Rev. V. W. Tevis.

MIDDLE BRANCH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Methodist church at Middle Branch, in Salt Creek township, was organized in 1867, with fifty charter members. They worshiped in private homes until a building was erected for worship in 1872, at a cost of twenty-five hundred dollars. The same building, with various improvements from time to time, is still in use. Class meetings, Sunday school and Epworth League are maintained and the work of the church in the community which it serves is such as to commend it to all worthy people. It is attached to the Batesville circuit. The following pastors have served the church: Mapes, Hunt, J. W. Mendell, Starks, A. M. Loudon, R. L. Kinnear, J. S. Winchester, F. A. Guthrie, W. F. Smith, E. L. Moore, W. Maupin, F. M. Westhafer, J. W. Recter, McDuffey, V. Hargett, Wolf, J. L. Jerman, Stout, Sylvester, W. H. Thompson, W. H. McDowell, C. M. Vawter, J. H. French and H. A. Broadwell, the present pastor. The trustees in 1915 were: Isaac Doles, Thomas Doles, William Caldwell, William Duncan and Isaac Reddington.

DISCONTINUED METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

Just how many discontinued Methodist churches there are in Decatur county is not known, but among them may be mentioned the following: St. Omer, St. Maurice, Shiloh, Center Grove, Finley and Fredonia. Little has been learned about these half dozen churches, although an effort has been made to trace the history of each. Shiloh was discontinued a few years ago, the members going to the Greensburg and Sandusky churches. Finley church was organized by the anti-war Democrats, who sent to Kentucky for their preacher. It disappeared long ago. Fredonia was in the Tucker neighborhood in Marion township and was made up in large part of Free-will Baptists, who came to the church in a body. It was on the Holton circuit and was an active church until about six years ago.

NEWPOINT METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal church in Newpoint is the newest church in Salt Creek township, having been founded a little more than twenty years ago. The erection of the building was superintended by John Anedeker, Jr. One of the first pastors of this church was Will Smith. Generally, the same pastors have served this church that have served the New Pennington Methodist Episcopal church, since the organization of the Newpoint church.

The trustees in 1915 were Leonard P. Hart, Charles Williams, Walter Stanley, William Koenigkramer. The Sunday school superintendent in that year was Leander Carr.

#### NEW PENNINGTON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Ever since it was founded, the New Pennington Methodist Episcopal church has been one of the most active country churches in the eastern part of Decatur county. Its history is embodied in the lives of men like the late John Collicott, who, during his lifetime, was a spiritual adviser and leader in the church. He was a member always faithful in exhortation and in the practice of the "old-time religion."

The following pastors have served the church: John Collicott (exhorter), F. M. Westhafer, Albert Stout, Will Smith, French, Wilbur McDowell, W. H. Thompson, C. M. Vawter, V. Hargett, Claude Sylvester, J. L. Jerman, W. Maupin and H. A. Broadwell, the pastor in 1915. The trustees of the church are: Charles Williams, Leonard P. Hart, Alfred Ahring, William Koenigkramer.

#### OTHER METHODIST CHURCHES.

Unfortunately, there were several Methodist churches in the county which failed to give any data for their history, and all that is known of them has been gleaned from the 1914 conference report. Rev. T. J. Lewis has four churches on his circuit: Westport, one hundred and seventy-five members; Mt. Pleasant, one hundred and thirty members; Letts, sixty members, and Burk's Chapel, twenty members. Only one of these churches responded to a request for data, the Mt. Pleasant church. The pastor on this circuit lives at Westport. Newpoint, Middlebranch and New Pennington are served by Rev. H. A. Broadwell from the Batesville circuit. New Pennington is credited with ninety-four members and Newpoint with seven in 1914. William De Hart serves the charges at Alert and Wesley Chapel, but nothing has been learned concerning either church. The church at Burney is in charge of Joseph H. Larmore.

#### BAPTIST CHURCHES.

The following is a list of the Baptist churches in Decatur county, together with their present membership and name of pastor:

Flatrock Association: Greensburg, four hundred and forty-five mem-

bers, J. W. Clevenger, pastor; Salem, one hundred and eighty-two members, A. A. Kay, pastor; Sand Creek, one hundred and thirty-one members; W. O. Beatty, pastor; Mt. Moriah, ninety-eight members, J. A. Ellis, pastor; Rossburg, thirty-eight members, W. O. Beatty, pastor.

Sand Creek Association: Mt. Aerie (Letts), three hundred and twenty-five members, W. C. Marshall, pastor; Liberty, two hundred and eighteen members, I. B. Morgan; Westport, one hundred and ninety-one members, A. A. Kay; Union, one hundred and seventy members, J. C. Nicholson, pastor; Mt. Pleasant, eighty-seven members, J. C. Nicholson, pastor; Friendship, thirty members, Eber Tucker, pastor; Rock Creek, twenty-nine members, P. A. Bryant, pastor.

The Baptist church was one of the first to get started in Decatur county, and, at one time or another, has had nearly a score of different congregations in the county. It should be noted that this church was strong in the county of Franklin, which joins Decatur on the east, and that many of the ministers from Franklin served the early Baptist churches of Decatur county. This church, like many others, has seen many of its congregations divide on questions of polity, music, secret societies, whisky, slavery and on other questions, some of minor importance which today seem very frivolous. More than one Baptist church of Decatur county has been rent asunder over some petty differences, while, to their credit, they have later reconciled their differences and again united.

#### SAND CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH.

The first church of this denomination in Decatur county was established in 1822, the same year the county began its independent career, thus making the church coexistent with the life of the county. In fact, the actual organization of the Sand Creek church antedated the actual official opening of the county by about three months. It was on the third Saturday in January, 1822, that eight people—Rev. John B. Potter, Jennie Potter, Zachariah Gartin, Polly Gartin, Dudley Taylor, Nancy Taylor, Rebecca Loyd and Jennie Miller—met for the purpose of organizing a Baptist church. Their first meeting was held in Washington township and sometime later they erected a building, which they used for many years. Rev. Potter donated five acres of ground to be used as a cemetery. This church became the mother of the Baptist churches of Decatur, and, as other branches were established, many of the members joined other congregations.

Shortly after effecting a permanent organization, the Sand Creek church



elected a council, consisting of Joel Butler, Basil Meek and Polly Baker. The church was first attached to the Silver Creek association, but later, upon the organization of the Flat Rock association, joined the latter. Many able men have served as pastors of this church and the following list represents some of the ablest ministers the church produced in the early history of the church: John B. Potter, Daniel Stoggsdill, Abraham Bohannon, James McEwen, John Pavy, Jacob Martin, I. Christie, James W. Lewis, James Pavey, M. B. Phares, Joab Stout, Preston Jones, J. W. B. Tisdale, J. W. Potter, G. W. Bower, C. N. Gartin, W. T. Jolly.

The Sand Creek Baptist church was organized under the following constitution: "Being sensible of the advantages and benefits of church privileges and gospel ordinances, we do agree to give ourselves, by the will of God, to God and to one another as a church, in order that we may keep up a church government and discipline according to the New Testament regulations; also, to watch over one another in love for the benefit of the church of Christ and the glory of the religious cause of God, we do covenant together as a regularly constituted church on the articles of faith of the Silver Creek association." The following constituent members signed these articles of faith: Zachariah Gartin, Polly Gartin, Dudley Taylor, Nancy Taylor, Jennie Miller, Rebecca Loyd, Rev. John B. Potter and Jennie Potter. These members received the hand of fellowship from a council composed of Elder Joel Butler, from Union church, Basil Meek and Polly Baker. A year later the church joined the Flat Rock association, with which it has since been affiliated.

Originally, the Sand Creek church embraced a wide scope of territory, being the second church of the denomination in the county, and holding the most central location. As suggested before it may very appropriately be called the mother of the many Baptist churches which were to follow. Large and flourishing churches have arisen in all parts of the county, until at the present time the field of Sand Creek is confined to a comparatively small territory. However, it is a strong congregation, and is constantly growing in strength and influence. Originally located about a mile and a half southeast of Greensburg, it changed to its present site in Marion township in the fore part of the eighties. The first meetings were held at the homes of the members, and, even after a log church was erected, meetings were often held at the homes of the centrally located members in the winter. In April, 1823, Nathaniel Madison Potter donated three-fourths of an acre of ground and William Loyd a half acre, for church and cemetery purposes. A building, twenty-four by thirty feet, was constructed of logs on the site so donated,

on the Michigan road, a mile and a half southeast of the county seat. The cemetery is still there, but the building has long since disappeared.

The first services in the new log building were held in April, 1824, and on that day the following contributions were made to Pastor Stogsdale for his services: Three dollars in cash, twelve days' work, two days' work, fifty cents and one day's work, one dollar and one bedstead, two days' work, two days' work, one dollar, two and a half bushels of corn. It was agreed that the members donating work were to contribute it at certain specified times, and, presumably, when the pastor could use them to the best advantage.

John B. Potter served the church until a building was erected and had the honor of being the first pastor and moderator. He died in February, 1823. His grave marks the resting place of the first member of the Sand Creek church. He preached the first Baptist sermon, if not the first of any kind, in Decatur county, on Clifty creek at a spring just above where the old Moriah Baptist church stood, in Adams township. The pastors in the log church were Daniel Stogsdale, Abraham Bohanon, James McEwen, John Pavy, Daniel Stogsdale and Jacob Martin, serving in the order given.

In 1842 a contract was let for a new building to be located on the same site, a short distance east of the log building. It was a frame structure, fifty by forty feet, and cost six hundred dollars, the contractor and the congregation both furnishing part of the material. The building was dedicated in the due course of time, with appropriate services, and continued to be the home of the church until 1883. During the early years services in the summer time were frequently held under the shade of a large poplar tree which stood near the south end of the church. Across the road a spring of excellent water gushed forth and the friendly gourd was ever hanging by it for the use of the members. In those days the evening services were conducted under the flitful gleam of the candle, and many people are still living who can recall the sputtering candles and tallow dips which were in use until the time of the Civil War.

The pastors in the frame building were Jacob Martin, Daniel Stogsdale, I. Cristy, James Lewis, John Pavy, M. B. Phares, Joab Stout, Preston Jones, J. W. B. Tisdale, James Lewis, J. W. B. Tisdale, J. W. Potter, G. W. Bowers, C. N. Gartin, W. T. Jolly and H. H. Smith.

In 1863, more ground was purchased from Mr. White for cemetery purposes, making about four acres altogether. About this time services were held in three different places—at the church, the Layton school house and the Middle Branch school house. As the years went by and new Baptist churches were organized, the question of moving the church farther south

was seriously discussed. It was not until 1882, that a final decision was made on this momentuous matter. In that year it was decided to locate on the Michigan road, in Marion township, about four and a half miles southeast of Greensburg, just across the Washington township line. Three and a half acres of ground were bought from J. D. Price for fifty dollars, and a brick building was at once planned. This building, thirty-two by forty-eight feet, was completed in the fall of 1883, and furnished in January of the following year.

Rev. J. E. McCoy was the first pastor in the new building, being called in February, 1884. In June of the same year the formal dedicatory services were held by Rev. I. N. Clark, who preached from the text, "For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." (I. Corinthians, third chapter, ninth verse.) The well, wood shed, tenant house and bell were added later, the total cost of the lot and buildings being two thousand, seven hundred fifty-seven dollars and two cents.

The pastors at the present building have been as follows: J. E. McCoy, W. H. Craig, T. A. Aspy, J. A. Pettit, J. F. Huckleberry, E. C. J. Dickens, Charles M. Phillips, Dennis O'Dell, A. J. Foster, Chesley Holmes and W. O. Beatty, the present pastor.

The Sand Creek church has been wholly, or at least partly, responsible in constituting the churches at Greensburg, Liberty, New Pleasant, Pleasant Grove, Mt. Zion, Columbia and Muddy Fork. Some of these churches are now extinct. On three occasions Sand Creek has entertained the association. Sand Creek is proud of the fact that it has furnished so many faithful ministers to the church at large. The following men have gone out from this congregation as pastors: Licentiates—Ransom Riggs, Shelton P. Lowe, Nathaniel Madison, Potter, John D. Parker, Washington Pavy, A. J. Martin and J. W. Potter; ordained ministers—Ransom Riggs, Washington Pavy, John W. Potter and William H. Le Masters.

The ministers deserving special mention for their long connection with the church are Daniel Stogsdale (sixteen and a half years), J. E. McCoy (eight years) and John W. Potter (eighteen years). Rev. Potter probably did more for the church than any other man. Nathaniel M. Potter was a deacon in the church for nearly nineteen years, while R. E. Caffyn was a deacon for nine years and clerk for fifteen years. Jacob McKee served as deacon for twelve years, Dora Privett was clerk for sixteen years, James Clemons was moderator for thirteen years and T. M. Clark was superintendent for ten years.

The church has enrolled approximately one thousand members in the

ninety-three years of its existence and now has a membership of one hundred and thirty-three active members. The yearly expenses average between three hundred and fifty and three hundred and seventy-five dollars.

Under the leadership of the present pastor, W. O. Beatty, the church is enjoying a steady growth. A Sunday school is maintained; a Young People's society meets every Sunday evening and an active Ladies' Aid society is doing efficient service in the Master's cause.

If the good pioneers who established this church nearly a century ago could know how much good had been done for the Redeemer and how many souls have been added to his kingdom through its instrumentality, they would rejoice indeed and feel that their early labors had not been in vain.

#### MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Mt. Moriah church was organized on May 23, 1823, with nineteen members: Rev. Daniel Stogsdill, Jonas Long, Joel Clark, William Harbord, Richard Guthrie and fourteen others whose names have not been preserved. This was the first branch of the Sand Creek church and included some who had belonged to the mother church. A building was erected on land donated by Solomon Turpin and stood in Adams township, on the old Michigan road, about a mile north of the present village of Adams. A brick church was built in 1834. This congregation flourished for twenty years before any dissension arose. In 1843 there was a great temperance wave sweeping over the country, and many churches became divided on the question of total abstinence. One of the members of the Mt. Moriah church, in an unguarded moment, either to drown some secret sorrow, or in libation to the sheer joy of living, had taken on a greater cargo of alcoholic liquor than his navigatory powers could handle. He became gloriously intoxicated and was brought before the church for trial. He was found guilty and expelled from the congregation. At the same sitting, the congregation heard the case of a member charged with the heterodoxy of having joined a temperance society. He pleaded guilty to the charge and was also expelled from the congregation. Whereupon a member, having more of a sense of humor than the others, arose and asked: "Brethren and sisters, just how much whisky must a man drink in order to be a good churchman?" Some time later, a minister at this place joined a temperance society and was promptly ousted by the congregation. This did not deter him from preaching, however, for he held services in homes of members of the congregation who stood with him on the temperance question, and he was later taken back into the pulpit.



Then the conservative Baptists of the Mt. Moriah congregation, finding themselves outnumbered by the temperance members, withdrew from the Mt. Moriah congregation and organized a church one mile below Adams, which they called Mt. Hebron.

#### MOUNT HEBRON AND ADAMS BAPTIST CHURCHES.

The Mt. Hebron church, as has been stated above, was the result of the split in the Mt. Moriah congregation, the cause of which may seem so surprising to us today. This temperance branch of the old church built a house of worship in Clay township about a quarter of a mile south of the present village of Adams. These two rival churches, the "wets" and the "drys," stationed within about a mile of each other, maintained their separate organizations for more than twenty years. By 1863 their ranks were becoming thin and they were growing so weak that they were scarcely able to keep up their organizations. It was at this juncture that Rev. J. B. Lathrop, who had established a Methodist church at Adams, suggested to the two churches that they forget their differences, unite their congregations and build a church at Adams. The Civil War was in progress, many of the members of both churches had gone to the front, and most of the few remaining finally decided that nothing could be gained by attempting to keep up two separate organizations. In this year the two churches—Mt. Moriah and Mt. Hebron—tore down the Mt. Moriah church and used the brick to erect a new house of worship in Adams. This building is still standing and is now occupied by the congregation. Whether it was in the nature of a compromise or not is not known, but it is interesting to note that it was agreed to use the Mt. Hebron cemetery. This final union of the two sister churches shows that most of the members could forgive, even though they might not forget. Some of them, however, were not able to reconcile themselves to the new order of things, and within five years they withdrew and formed the little Flat Rock church. The pastors of the Adams Baptist church from 1865 have been: Preston Jones, Daniel Stogsdill, A. Bohannon, James McEwen, J. Currier, J. M. Smith, E. J. Todd, I. Christie, J. W. B. Tisdale, Evan Snead, J. Chancey, James Pavey, John Pavey, Preston Jones, F. M. Huckleberry, L. E. Duncan, L. A. Clevenger (1880-83).

#### LITTLE FLAT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Little Flat Rock church was organized by twelve members of the Mt. Moriah congregation, the "wet" branch, after Mt. Moriah and Mt.

Hebron had decided, in 1865, to unite in building a new church at the village of Adams. These twelve were B. W. Stogsdill, A. A. Stogsdill, Lewis and Malinda Shelhorn, D. W. and Mary Shelhorn, S. A. and Eliza Shelhorn, H. L. and Emily Doggett, Mary Snickler and Elizabeth Shelhorn. Whether they withdrew at once after the union of 1865 is not known; at least, they did not erect a house of worship and effect a permanent organization until 1870. On the first Saturday in March of that year they met and decided to build a church in the Shelhorn neighborhood on the banks of Little Flat Rock. A commodious building was erected and in a few years the church had enrolled over a hundred members. Rev. Preston Jones was the leading spirit in the church for many years and served as pastor until along in the eighties. Other ministers have been: F. M. Huckleberry and S. P. Smith.

#### LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Liberty Baptist church was the third of the denomination to be organized in Decatur county and dates from 1827. In that year nine members met at the home of Charles Taylor, three and one half miles west of Greensburg, on the second Saturday of August. The original members were Obadiah Martin and wife, Elizabeth, John Whitlow and wife, Thomas Keel and wife, Moses Sally and wife and Andrew Nicholas. At the second meeting the members selected Obadiah Martin as their minister, he being at that time a licentiate. They set aside the second Saturday in November, 1827, for his ordination, but this ceremony was later postponed until the second Saturday in May, 1828. At that time the council, composed of Daniel Stogdel, Adam Cantwell, James Long and John Wheeldon, performed the ordination services. On the second Saturday in June following, Rev. Martin was chosen moderator of the congregation. He continued to serve the church faithfully until his death, six years later. At the third regular meeting after his death, James McEwin was invited to become the pastor, and he remained with the church as pastor until 1836, at which time the church granted a license to preach to Joseph A. Martin and John T. Warren. These two men then ministered to the congregation jointly until 1839, when the church granted a license to Samuel Williams. From the time of Williams' advancement to the position of licentiate until October, 1840, the three men—Martin, Warren and Williams—served the congregation. At the latter date the congregation ordained Martin and Warren and the two served the church together until 1843. In July, of that year, the church called John Pavy for one year and at the same meeting chose John T. War-

ren as assistant moderator. In 1846 the church again selected Pavy as their pastor and the following year called Archibald Leach for a period of one year. The pastors from that year down to the present time have been as follow: Jacob Martin, 1848; Daniel Stogdel, 1849; Joseph Sampson, 1850; Joab Stout, 1850, until his death. The dates of the remaining pastors have not been furnished. They are: Albert Carter, F. M. Huckleberry, Alexander Connelly, W. W. Smith, T. A. Aspy, John Huckleberry, E. Sanford and I. B. Morgan, the present pastor. The deacons of the church have been as follow: John Whitlow, 1828-37; Benjamin Taylor, 1837-1853; Elijah McGuire, 1840-1851; Pleasant Martin, 1852-1915; Elijah Markland, 1854-1856; Simpson Turner, 1857-1915; James M. Brown, 1871-1915. Among the clerks of the church may be mentioned Moses Sally, Pleasant Martin, William Douglass, Samuel Howell and Richard Wright.

The first building was a log structure, twenty-two by twenty-six feet, which, however, was never completely finished. It was built about one mile north of the present building. In 1844, the church started to erect a second building, but it was not completed until 1852. In 1855 the congregation built a substantial frame building, thirty by thirty-six feet. It was destroyed by fire in 1866. In the same year plans were made for the erection of a brick building and it was finished and dedicated in 1868.

For many years after the church was organized there was little money for church expenses. The first sexton received two dollars and a half a year for his services, while today he receives a salary of fifty-two dollars. The total expenses for 1915 are as follow: Pastor, \$150; assistant, \$150; visiting ministers, \$100; home missions, \$53; foreign missions, \$11.25; sexton, \$52; Sabbath school, \$50. Four members of the church gave a total amount of \$251 for the endowment fund of Franklin College during 1914.

The Liberty church was first a member of the Flat Rock association, but in 1850, it united with the Sand Creek association. During the twenty-three years preceding 1850, the church admitted one hundred and three persons to membership. Of that number, eleven have been excluded, and of the members in 1850, there are two still living. In the last twenty years the church has admitted two hundred and twenty-three to membership. In the spring of 1912, Rev. S. G. Huntington conducted a revival, which brought twenty-nine new members into the church. The total membership at the present time is two hundred and eighteen.

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Salem Baptist church was established on the third Saturday of February, 1831, at the home of John S. Rutherford, one and one-half miles northeast of Milford. The constituent members were: Richard and Fannie Johnson, James and Elizabeth Dunn, James and George M. O'Laughlin, Mathias and Margaret Mount, Thomas and Elizabeth Jones. The first house of worship was erected in 1831, and this remained in use until 1888, when the present building was erected. It was remodeled in 1909, and is now provided with all the modern improvements. The church property is valued at three thousand dollars.

The ministers include the following: John Pavy, J. W. B. Tisdale, W. E. Spear, James Pavey, J. W. Potter, A. A. Downey, W. A. Pavey, Alonzo Aspy, T. A. Aspy, J. A. Pettit, J. F. Huckleberry, Noah Harper, E. C. J. Dickens, M. C. Welch, L. T. Root, D. P. Liston, D. P. Odell, R. H. Kent, H. W. Clark, C. B. Jones, and A. A. Kay, the present pastor. The clerk is F. L. Sasser, who furnished all the data for the history of the church. The church now has a membership of two hundred. A Baptist Young People's Union was organized in 1914.

GREENSBURG BAPTIST CHURCHES.

According to the early records, the Greensburg Baptist church was founded in 1841, by the Rev. Joshua Currier, of Connecticut, sent here by the American Baptist Home Mission Society. Prior to his coming, the Greensburg Baptists held membership in some of the older churches of the denomination in the county. The missionary was a thrifty New Englander and both he and his wife were well endowed with those attributes necessary for success in this particular field.

From their hillside home on the left of the present entrance to South Park cemetery they worked, taught and visited for seven years. The church was organized July 17, 1841, with eighteen members and united the following month with the Flat Rock association. Eight members were added the following year, after which the new church only held its own until 1848, when, with thirty-three baptisms and twelve additions by letter, the number of members was raised to ninety-seven.

Just a little later it suffered a heavy loss through the removal of the pastor and several families to Iowa. The next minister was the Rev. M. B. Phares, a young college man, who served in 1849-50. Following him came



Ref. D. G. Heuston (1853-54), who was also a Franklin College man. During his pastorate, fire destroyed the meeting house. This building had been purchased of the Presbyterians, who had erected a new edifice. The pews of this church faced the doors and it was lighted with candles.

For a time the congregation used the office of Ezra Lathrop for business and prayer meetings. Occasional preaching services were conducted in other churches. Plans for rebuilding were laid at once, and the church was completed during the pastorate of the Rev. J. W. B. Tisdale (1856-59). The basement of the new church was occupied as soon as it was completed. Private schools were conducted in it for a time, the teachers being James Caffyn and Rev. J. W. Potter.

The new church was a two-story structure, with thick brick walls and heavy stone steps, with iron railings. It was lighted with kerosene and heated with two large stoves. Rev. Harry Smith was the pastor in 1860, and was followed in 1861 by Rev. M. B. Phares, who had previously served the congregation.

During the anxiety and depression of the Civil War, when many of the able-bodied members of the congregation were at the front, the Greensburg church shared its pastor with the Sand Creek congregation. Rev. Phares was unable to bear up under the consequent heavy labor and died before the war was over. He lies buried in the Sand Creek cemetery.

Rev. Ira C. Perrine, who was also a physician, served the church for a time and then retired on account of failing health. Upon his death, which took place soon after his retirement, the pulpit was supplied by a number of ministers until the coming of Rev. J. Cell, in 1864. He served for two years and was followed by Rev. L. D. Robinson, who remained for three years. During the latter's pastorate there were a number of innovations introduced into the church, including the introduction of instrumental music, a choir, Christmas trees, church socials and other means of supplementing the regular church revenues. In this period the church membership was considerably augmented through additions by baptism and letter.

Rev. J. S. Green, who served the church as pastor for some time, absconded in 1870 after forging the signatures of a number of his parishoners. He was located in Portland, Connecticut, where he was working in a tinware factory. He had formerly preached in a Methodist church there under another name. He was kept in jail for a time, during which he improved his leisure by writing a series of letters to the newspapers.

The next pastor was Rev. John Chambers, who remained for a year. Then came Rev. W. A. Caplinger, a supply, who conducted a revival with

the assistance of Rev. J. Cell, and the heart of the congregation turned to the former pastor, who was gladly recalled. He died after a few months' service and lies buried in South Park cemetery in Greensburg.

Rev. B. F. Cavons came in 1870, with his young bride, and remained for seven years, during which the church enjoyed a steady growth. The baptistry was constructed and other needed improvements added. Hitherto baptismal services had been held in Little Sand Creek, usually near Michigan avenue and Washington street.

The next pastor was Rev. W. E. Pritchard, who had been trained in Spurgeon's London college. He came to the church in 1881. About this time agitation was started for the erection of a new church or enlarging the old one. The church building then in use was twenty-five years old, and the congregation was much larger than at the date of its erection. No decision could be reached and the agitation continued throughout the pastorate of Reverend Pritchard and that of his successor, Rev. J. A. Kirkpatrick (1885-86).

Reverend Kirkpatrick devoted his energy to strengthening the body of the church and added many new members. During his ministry the fiftieth anniversary of the church was fittingly celebrated. During the tenure of his successor, Rev. D. W. Sanders, the church united on building plans, tore down the old building and erected the present structure, which was cleared of debt after several years of heroic effort.

Rev. J. B. Thomas was the pastor in 1892, and was followed by Rev. W. W. Smith, who served the church with zeal and industry for four years. In 1900 Manford Schuk was called and ordained. He occupied the pulpit for a year and then left to continue his studies. His successor, Rev. H. W. Davis, served two years. The last four named were students at Franklin College and three of them spent their early life in the vicinity of Greensburg. During the pastorate of the Rev. Davis, the pipe organ was installed.

The next pastor was Rev. J. Heritage, another English-trained minister. While he was minister, Mrs. Joseph Wynn presented the church with an individual communion set. He was followed in turn by Rev. J. F. Frazer, Rev. J. F. Fradenburg, and Rev. J. W. Clevenger, the present minister, who took the pulpit in 1914.

In its history of three-quarters of a century the Greensburg Baptist church has had twenty-four pastors, two of whom were recalled to the pulpit. There were times when the pulpit was filled by supplies, but, for the most part, services have been regular since the organization of the church.

A number of Baptist ministers have spent their last years in Greens-

burg and have added considerably to the power of the church. Among them have been Rev. J. W. B. Tisdale, S. M. Stimson, D. D. (for twenty-five years secretary of the Foreign Mission Society), Rev. T. J. Connor, Rev. F. M. Huckelberry, Rev. Alexander Connoley, Rev. C. M. Phillips and Rev. A. D. Berry, who brought the office of the *Baptist Observer* to Greensburg for a time.

The first license to preach was granted by the Greensburg church to Thomas Edkinsom, one of the constituent members. Dyar M. Christy was given a license in the late sixties, and he preached until his death, twenty-five years later. E. Hez Swem, who was the third sent out, has spent a useful quarter of a century in Washington, D. C. Three ministers have been ordained by the church, Rev. Manford Schuk, Rev. William LeMasters and Rev. O. A. Bowman.

A few legacies have been left the church. Ezra Lathrop bequeathed it fifteen hundred dollars, and Mahalla Ragan and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wynn left it one thousand dollars. The church has been host to the Indiana Baptist state convention four times: 1861, 1868, 1878 and 1913. It has entertained delegates and messengers from the churches of the Flat Rock association three times, in 1866, 1889 and 1913.

The first clerk of the church was Jabez Edkins. Z. A. Withrow is reported as occupying that office in 1852. Among those who held the office during long terms of years were J. N. Shirk, F. C. Eddleman, R. T. Wright and C. W. Woodward. Ezra Lathrop, George Fletcher, George Perrine, Isaac N. Shirk and Benjamin Bowers were among the early deacons. The following among others have served as church treasurer: Ebenezer Edkins, R. T. Wright, Everet Marsh, Charles Schuk, C. W. Woodward, Harrington Boyd and Hugh Taylor.

Some of the Sunday school superintendents have been I. N. Shirk, W. B. Harvey, Ira Hollensbe, R. T. Wright, Charles Williams, Everett Marsh, G. G. Welsh, Herbert West and William G. Bently. Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston was a loyal and efficient leader of the primary department for more than thirty years.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1877, with Mrs. Joseph Wynn as president, and women's prayer meetings have been a continuous feature of the life of the church. The early meeting places were the homes of Mrs. Abi Lathrop, Mrs. T. Edkins or Mrs. Fletcher. For a period of ten years these meetings were held regularly at the home of Mrs. J. B. Wheatley.

## MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH.

The members of the Baptist church living in the southern part of Jackson township met at the home of James Blankenship on the third Saturday of February, 1835, and organized the Mt. Pleasant church. The constituent members had been attached to the Bear Creek church, in Bartholomew county, before this time. They numbered ten, as follows: William T. Stribbling, Achsa Stribbling, John Chambers, Elizabeth Chambers, John Graham, Eliza Graham, James Blankenship, Mary Blankenship, Mary Chambers and Catherine Eli. At the home of John Chambers the new church was reorganized by the council on February 28, 1835, Bear Creek, Mt. Moriah and Vernon being represented in the council. They worshipped in private homes for two years, and in 1837 erected a log church, which was supplanted in 1860 by a brick building. The church has drawn her membership from a large territory, with Sardinia as her center. Among pastors of this church are the following: Chesley Woodward, William Vawter, John Pavy, Hiram Pond, John Stott, Ira Gleason, Albert Carter, F. M. Huckleberry, W. Y. Moore and J. C. Nicholson.

## DRY FORK BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Dry Fork church was constituted in February, 1835, at the home of Enoch Garrison, with the following constituent members: John Patrick and wife, Enoch and Margaret Garrison, Elizabeth and Sarah Patrick, Susan Morgan, Rebecca Black and Eleanor Tazewell. For the first six years after the organization, the congregation held services in the homes of the members, and then built a rude log church. In 1852, a substantial frame structure was erected one-half mile south of Newburg in Jackson township. The pastors of this church include the following: A. Leach, John Vawter, James Blankenship, William Moore, G. W. Pavey, Evan Snead, G. W. Patrick, Absolom Pavey, James Pavey, Joab Stout, B. Denham, Hugh McCalip, W. E. Spears, F. M. Huckleberry, John W. Potter and Albert Carter. Dry Fork is the mother of the churches of Westport and Mt. Aerie (Letts).

## WESTPORT BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Westport church is an arm of the Dry Fork church and was organized January 4, 1851, with twenty-three members, as follows: Richard  
(16)



Childers, Benjamin Childers, Elizabeth Childers, James Hamilton, John Buck, Lewis T. Scott, Catherine Shields, Susan Morgan and sixteen others, whose names have not been preserved. The formal organization was in charge of a council from Mt. Pleasant, Dry Fork and Sand Creek churches. A building, erected in 1852, is still in use. The pastors of the church include the following: Hiram Pond, G. W. Patrick, Joab Stout, Hiram Christie, J. W. Reynolds, G. W. Herron, Benjamin Wilson, Jonathan Allee, W. E. Spear, John Waters, John Stott, J. C. Remy and A. A. Kay.

#### ROSSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Rossburg church was established on March 1, 1851, by a council representing the churches of Pipe Creek, West Fork, Delaware and Napoleon. The charter members were as follow: James Alexander, William W. Hollensbe, John F. Hollensbe, James Updike, Andrew J. Martin, Sanford Stapp, Albert I. Osborne, Rev. Sylvester Ferris and seven others. The pastors have been Sylvester Ferris, J. C. Perrine, Enoch Tilton, James W. Lewis, James M. Smith, Obediah Martin, Horace Wilson, Spear, Simms, Frank Level, J. W. Tisdale, George W. Bowers, Alexander Connelly and W. O. Beatty, the present pastor.

The Rossburg church, in its existence up to 1915, perhaps had its palmiest days in the period from 1860 to 1890. It was during this period that George Washington Bower, who served the Rossburg church as pastor much of the time from 1864 until 1913, was in the vigor of life and action and the church in its youth and power. Since 1890, or thereabouts, a noticeable decrease in the activity of the church has come about due to the removal of many members and families from the church community and the age and feebleness of older members.

Since 1890, however, much excellent work has been done periodically at Rossburg and, continuing through this later period, many souls have been converted, under the ministry of Reverend Bower and others, to the Christian life; so that faithful hearts and hands have kept sacred to service the meeting house where once the pioneer pastor of the early day proclaimed the Gospel of truth, and where, at the memorable little pulpit, many an erring, though good and precious soul, was led forward, born again, into the new and true life of the Redeemer.

One of the older members of this church, writing of it in 1915, said: "In the period from 1860 to 1890 many a time, and many a time, have I seen such large crowds attend church services at Rossburg that all could not get in the



REV. G. W. BOWER AND WIFE.

Reverend Bower was, for nearly forty years, pastor of the Rossburg Baptist Church.



church. That was especially so when Bower preached regularly there." But in the later period, when Bower continued to minister at Rossburg, the congregation had become scattered and many old familiar faces he had known, were absent. On one occasion when he preached there, not long before his death, in 1913, he remarked in the course of his sermon, looking like the pictures of Whittier, "Most of my congregation are out here," as he pointed to the "silent city," with its "windowless palaces" there on the hill.

And so it was that to a large extent the life of George W. Bower became the life and history of the Rossburg Baptist church through a long period of time. His life in his period with the church was an embodiment of the character and life of the church. By his sturdy, powerful preaching and honest example, many a person was led through baptism into the new and true life. He had much to do with the religious integrity of eastern Decatur county for half a century.

George W. Bower was born in Adams township, Ripley county, Indiana, September 29, 1836, and died on February 19, 1913. He received what education he had in the common schools and taught during eleven terms of common school. He married Nancy Miller, March 17, 1861, who was always a faithful helpmate in her husband's work at Rossburg. Mr. Bower was "born again" in February, 1864, and united with the Pipe Creek Baptist church. He was baptized by Rev. James M. Smith, March 16, of the same year. He was chosen superintendent of the Sunday school in March, 1864, and served in that position for three years. On July 27, 1867, the church licensed him to preach. He preached his first sermon on Sunday, December 16, 1866, at his home church, his text being John 3:14-15. He was ordained on December 27, 1868, by his home church, at the request of the Franklin church, at Pierceville, Indiana, which had called him as pastor for one-fourth time. His longest pastorate was at Rossburg and Pipe Creek churches. He preached at Elkhart for twenty years; at Hogan Hill, thirteen years; at Hopewell, seven years; Ingar Creek, six years; Washington, six years; and at other churches from one to four years. He was a member of the Baptist state convention board for several years, when the members were elected by the associations.

A summary of his work follows: Regular sermons preached, 5,675; funeral sermons, 478; whole number of sermons preached, 6,153; marriages solemnized, 204; number baptized, 588. He gave more time to Rossburg than to any other one church. Anyone who met him never failed to be impressed by his lofty, though kind and simple, puritan character; by his honesty, his integrity, his strength of will and his moral and spiritual power. His works live on and on in this church he served.



The officers of the church in 1915 were: Trustees, Alfred M. Hooten, Forest Higdon, David Martin; clerk, Mrs. Emma Gwinn; treasurer, Forest Higdon.

MT. AERIE (LETTS) BAPTIST CHURCH.

Mt. Aerie church was organized in the latter part of 1872, as an arm of Dry Fork, the organization following the establishment and successful career of a Sunday school at that point. A revival was held in the early part of 1874, during which forty-three members were added to the church. This meeting was under the direction of John W. Potter, who was then pastor of the Dry Fork church, and aroused so much interest that a request was made for an independent organization. This was granted, and, on Thursday, April 23, 1874, the Mt. Aerie church formally began its career. At the time of its recognition by the council, August 29, 1874, it enrolled sixty-six members, among whom may be mentioned Allen W. and Sarah R. Lett, James Fowler, G. T. and Mary J. Davis, Rachel Davis, John and Ruth Holmes, Chesley Holmes, John S. and Sarah J. Adams, S. H. and Nancy Thompson, J. H. Stout, John W. Stout, Andrew Alexander, Emaline Brunton and John Hunter. The pastors of this church have been John W. Potter, Albert Carter, John E. McCoy, W. W. Smith, J. O. Burroughs, E. Sanford, H. W. Davis, Chesley Holmes, J. F. Huckleberry, J. E. Smith, A. D. Berry, W. F. Roberts, W. F. Wagner, B. R. Robinson and W. C. Marshall, the present pastor. A substantial brick building a half mile from Letts, was built the same year the church was organized and was surmounted by one of the largest bells ever brought into the county. This is one of the strongest rural Baptist churches in Indiana, and now has a membership of three hundred and twenty-five. An active Sunday school, with an average attendance of one hundred and fifty, is maintained. The parsonage is in the town of Letts and is valued at two thousand dollars, the value of the church building and grounds being estimated at ten thousand dollars. The pastor is paid a yearly salary of nine hundred dollars. A well-kept cemetery adjoins the church and there lie hundreds of the members of the church who have helped to make it one of the strongest influences for good in the community.

The present officers of the Mt. Aerie church are as follow: Pastor, W. C. Marshall; deacons, Albert Holmes, Albert Rowland, Charles Bridges, William Feur, Kenneth Levering and Alfred Beagle; trustees, M. B. Taylor, Urso McCorkle, N. E. Moore, John Jackson and Charles Bridges.

## UNION BAPTIST CHURCH.

The history of the Union church dates back ninety years, since it was established in 1825. It was brought into existence through the labors of Elder Matthew Elder, who succeeded in getting it organized on June 18, 1825, at the old Ross school house, three and one-half miles east of Greensburg. It appears that this church was not exactly an orthodox Baptist church; at least, it was started out as the "Separate Baptist church," but just what is meant by the unusual prefix is not known. Although it was organized in 1825, it was more than a quarter of a century before a building was erected for a house of worship, services being held in school houses and private homes previous to 1854. The first building of 1854 was torn down in 1858, and rebuilt four and one-half miles southwest of Greensburg. The church was recognized as a Missionary Baptist church on August 10, 1876, under the name of Union Baptist church. Matthew Elder was pastor of the church for more than forty years, and since the church has been recognized by the regular Baptists, the following have served: J. W. Hammock, J. W. Potter, W. T. Jolly, Ephraim Bond, John E. McCoy, W. W. Smith, F. M. Huckleberry, T. A. and Lotus Aspy, J. E. Smith, O. L. Powers, J. G. Colter, D. C. Smith, C. E. Odell, and J. C. Nicholson, the present incumbent. The church has one hundred and sixty members at present and has ninety enrolled in the Sunday school.

## ROCK CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Rock Creek Baptist church, also known as Lower Union, was established in September, 1825, with the following constituent members: Jacob, Sarah, Daniel, Ann, Robert and Clara Van Dusen and Ephraim; Anna and Cornelia Althiser—a total of nine, representing only two families. The records of the first twenty-one years have long since disappeared and little is known of the early struggles of this congregation. The church was first organized in a school house near Zenas, Jennings county, Indiana. Some of the members lived there, but the majority living on Rock Creek, four miles northwest, in Decatur county, it was the intention to build a church at the latter place. The meetings were held in Jacob Van Dusen's home most of the time up to 1850, in which year the congregation built a log meeting house on Rock creek, three miles southeast of Westport. In 1859 they sold their building for fifty dollars and for the next two years met in a school house

three miles southwest of Millhousen. In 1862 the church, with other denominations whose names have not been ascertained, built a union meeting house on the present site. This same church is now used alternately by both the Baptists and the United Brethren in Christ.

When this church was first organized there was no association within reach, so this church, with others, formed the "Baptist Liberty Council." John Pavy, the first pastor, and other ministers of the denomination living in Kentucky, were bitterly opposed to slavery, and, accordingly, moved to Indiana. They formed this council and maintained it for several years. In 1843 the Rock Creek church was attached to the Madison association, but a few years later it became a part of the Sand Creek association, with which it has been affiliated down to the present time. Inability to find the records has made it impossible to give a complete list of the pastors who have served this congregation, but the following are known to have preached there at one time or another: John Pavy, John Bush, William Tyner, John Warren, Chesley Woodward, Benjamin Tucker, Hiram Pond, Christian Burkman, Nathan Frazy, Jacob Martin, George Herron, D. O. Sites (1866-69), John Waters (1869-71), Jonathan Allee and John Waters (called a second time). This list brings the pastors up to sometime in the seventies, but no list has been furnished of those down to the present pastor, P. A. Bryant.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

Founders of the Kingston Presbyterian church, parent of other churches of this denomination in Decatur county, were descendants of Covenanters, and so, by ancestry, Presbyterian as far back as there is any record. Their parents emigrated from western Pennsylvania to Kentucky, where they founded the Concord Presbyterian church in 1792.

In 1817 this church had two hundred members, but one of whom was a slave owner. Many were active abolitionists. Such a band could have no true home in a slave state. In 1821-1823 a number of families from this church settled in the Kingston neighborhood and organized the church there, presumably on December 18, 1823.

The entry on the old minute book reads: "This day . . . a number of persons . . . came forward after sermon by the Rev. John Moreland, and associated themselves together as a Presbyterian church, to be denominated Sand Creek church, and proceeded to chose Samuel Donnell, John Hopkins, John C. McCoy and William O. Ross to the office of ruling elder."

A year later, Rev. John Dickey, an able pioneer preacher, visited the church, installed the elders, received fifty persons who presented letters into membership, baptized eleven children and conducted a two-day meeting. Preaching services were held but once a year until 1826, when a new church was established with twelve members at Greensburg, and the Rev. S. G. Lowry, who was selected as minister for the Sand Creek church. He was succeeded in 1833 by the Rev. John Weaver.

Presbyterian ministers of the early days received very modest remunerations. The following is quoted from the old minute book of the Sand Creek church:

"On settlement with Robert B. Donnell and James Thomson, collectors for the Sand Creek congregation, the sum of \$572.93 $\frac{3}{4}$  has been received in discharge of the pecuniary obligation of the call which I hold from said congregation up to the beginning of the year January, 1829. The deficit of \$27.06 $\frac{1}{4}$  is hereby relinquished to the credit of said congregation, so that this instrument shall be considered a clear receipt for three years up to January 1, 1829.

"Witness my hand, this 9th day of January, 1830.

"SAMUEL G. LOWRY."

It is probably not an uncharitable reflection upon the benevolence of the minister, considering the meagerness of his salary, to credit the belief that probably the reason he relinquished the deficit was because the resources of the collectors were exhausted.

Two years later, political differences, destined later to rend the nation, begin to make their presence felt in the Sand Creek church. Refractory members were frequently admonished, and frequent complaints for slander show that there was a great deal of heated controversy going on. The "irrepressible conflict" was rising in the church. In 1837 matters reached a crisis, and the church split, thirty-seven members withdrawing March 13, to found what is now the Kingston Presbyterian church. The insurgents were abolitionists, opposed to the course of the general assembly upon the slavery question. Although the weaker body in numbers, the new church lived and the old one died. After the war, the few remaining members of the Sand Creek church united with the Kingston congregation.

Upon their withdrawal, finding themselves outside the Presbyterian fold, the thirty-seven insurgents sought shelter in a Congregational church until 1840, when they built a small frame structure, which was later transformed into a school house. Later the Congregational congregation was absorbed.



The third edifice to be erected by the denomination was a frame building and stood in front of what is now the school yard. It was not so large as the brick building erected by the congregation in 1836, but the ceiling was higher and the windows larger. After being used as a church for twelve years, it was turned over to the township for use as a school.

Two of the largest subscriptions made for construction of the old brick church were by Samuel and James Hamilton. Contracts for building it were let by competitive bidding, the contractors starting at a sufficiently high sum and bidding down. The brick-making contract was bid in for a sum close to five hundred dollars.

Until the coming of Rev. Benjamin Franklin, in 1847, the church was supplied by the following ministers: Benjamin Nyce, M. H. Wilder, Charles Chamberlain, Boram, Campbell and Jonathan Cable. The Rev. Franklin was an English missionary who had been stationed in the West Indies. The reverend gentleman found some of the customs of the male members of his congregation decidedly new, especially tobacco chewing. During his pastorate the Clarksburg church was organized.

Rev. Benjamin Nyce again became the pastor of the church in 1850. During his ministry the Free Presbyterian church, which excluded slave owners and was opposed to secret societies, was formed. As this body represented the most extreme anti-slavery element, the Kingston church gladly united with it.

"We cannot resist the conviction that this worthy body of reformers contained a good many cranks, and Kingston had its full share both of ministers and members," says Cammilla Donnell, in writing of the church at that place. "But our fathers were happily unconscious of the word. They went on their way regardless of the ridicule and the prejudice of the outside world, with temperance and abolition written on their door posts, reading and circulating abolition books and papers, running with great success their branch of the 'underground railroad,' voting the most extreme reform tickets, and doing their humble best to turn the world upside down."

Rev. Daniel Gilmer became the church's minister in 1854, serving for three years. He was succeeded by Rev. William Gilmer, of Cincinnati, said to have been a brilliant talker and a most persuasive borrower. Many good stories are told concerning him.

Erection of a fourth church building was started in 1854. While the frame of the structure was being raised, there was an accident caused by the carelessness of the builder, the timbers collapsed and several members of the congregation were badly injured, two of them being crippled for life.

Funds for the construction of this building were raised by direct assessment, each member being taxed according to the amount of property he possessed as set forth in the records of the county treasurer. Only a few, it is said, objected to paying the full amount of their assessments.

The next minister was Rev. A. T. Rankin, who served the church from 1860 to 1890. During his long pastorate the parsonage was built, land was added to the original tract, large bequests were received, a cemetery fund was raised, and, finally, the present beautiful building was erected. Succeeding pastors have been as follows: J. A. Liggett, Harry Nyce, R. A. Bartlett, C. R. Adams, W. F. Scoular, W. E. Hogg, and H. M. Campbell, who has been the pastor of the church since November 20, 1913.

The Kingston church has given for furtherance of the Gospel the following missionaries: Thomas Ware, Andrew Jack, Edward Adams, Annie Adams Baird, Hamilton Henry, Eva Rankin, Rose Rankin, Jean Rankin and Hannah Evans. It has also furnished the following ministers: Harrison Thomson, Wallace Thomson, John Harney, S. H. Darvin, Austin Thomson, Eberle Thomson, Theophilis Lowry, George D. Parker, T. D. Bartholomew, E. A. Allen, Harry Nyce, Benjamin Nyce, Edward Adams, H. B. Hamilton, Emmett Robison, with three colored ministers, A. J. Davis, Thomas Ware and Peter Prim.

Today the Kingston church occupies a proud place in the annals of Decatur county Presbyterianism. Seed planted by the descendants of the Covenanters has multiplied beyond their utmost expectations, and strong congregations have sprung from the loins of the parent church. Its influence has grown wider in extent with each succeeding year.

Hanover College was organized in the old log meeting house, and its pastor was made a trustee of the institution; Harrison Thomson became a member of its faculty, one Donnell finished and furnished the college chapel and another endowed a professorship. Dr. A. T. Rankin, the grand old man of this church, dedicated the chapel.

Said Doctor Rankin, on the thirtieth anniversary of his pastorate: "What would Indiana, or the United States, or the world have been, without Hanover? And what would Hanover have been without Kingston?"

"Kingston furnished Bloomington a professor and the *Louisville Courier Journal* its greatest editor (John Harney). The first pastor of this church held the stake Carnahan drove to mark the place where Wabash College was built, and that Thomson who managed its finances so admirably for so many years, professed faith in Christ here. How far-reaching and great the influence of the church organized in a log cabin seventy-five years ago!"

## THE GREENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

As previously stated, the Greensburg church was organized, November 20, 1826, following the dismissal of twelve members from the Sand Creek church, who were charged with the responsibility of starting a second Presbyterian church in Decatur county. All of them lived in the neighborhood of Greensburg. The charter members of this church were Thomas Hendricks, Robert Thorne, Lydia Thorne, Martha L. Mars, James Loomis, Phoebe Loomis, Benjamin Antrobus, Polly Antrobus, David Gageby, William O. Ross and Elizabeth R. Ross. The last three men named were the first elders. The first new member received was Mrs. Jane Warriner.

Family names of these pioneers no longer appear upon the church records, but in a few instances female descendants of some of these original members are now holding membership in the Greensburg church. Rev. Samuel Lowry was the first minister, giving one-fourth of his time for more than four years to the infant church. The next pastor was the Rev. James R. Wheelock, a missionary of the American Home Missionary Society. He served from 1830 to 1833, and in that period added forty-five members to the church.

Revs. Samuel Hurd, Wells Bushnell and John S. Weaver ministered in succession for short periods each until 1838, when Rev. Joseph G. Monfort became pastor of the Sand Creek and Greensburg churches. The latter now numbered sixty-three members. During his ministry the schism which rent the church into the Old and New Schools extended to Greensburg and eighteen members withdrew to form a new church. During his four years' stay one hundred and twenty-four new members were received.

Upon his departure, fifty-two members of the Greensburg church were dismissed to found a new church at Forest Hill. His successor for a two-year period was the Rev. Joseph B. Adams. During his pastorate, membership in the church dwindled to fifty-two and the Rev. Monfort was again, in 1844, called to the pulpit. His acceptance was conditioned upon the reunion of the Old and New School churches, which was happily accomplished. His second term of service lasted for ten years, after which he left to become editor of the church publication at Cincinnati.

Doctor Monfort was succeeded by his father, Rev. Francis Monfort. Rev. Charles Axtell, Dr. Joseph Warren and then by Rev. David Monfort. His pastorate commenced in 1858 and lasted until 1867. It was broken for two years, when the Reverend Monfort left his church to serve as chaplain

in the Union Army. During this period the pulpit was filled by Rev. Benjamin Nyce. Reverend Monfort was a learned man, but extremely absent-minded. He would often ride for miles upon a country road, meeting many of his friends without recognizing any of them.

In 1868, Rev. J. C. Irwin accepted a call and remained until 1874. He was considered by many to be one of the most instructive preachers of his day. During his pastorate, the parsonage was built. The pulpit was vacant until 1876, when Rev. G. R. Alden began his pastorate. It was marked by two important events, a highly successful revival and a fire which destroyed the church building. During his pastorate, for the first time the voice of a woman was heard in prayer meeting. Before this, the Greensburg Presbyterians had given strict heed to the Pauline injunction regarding the silence of women in churches, deeming it of perpetual force. Today, without their assistance, Presbyterian prayer meetings might often relapse into the quiet of a Quaker meeting.

Dr. Robert Sloss became pastor of the church in November, 1879, and during his stay the present church building was completed. He continued as pastor until his death in 1895. He was followed by Rev. William Torrence (1886-1891), Rev. R. G. Roscamp (1892-1894), Rev. J. W. Parker, Rev. Robert Bartlett, Rev. Robert Dunaway and Dr. Walter H. Reynolds, whose pastorate commenced in 1908.

From its very beginning, almost, the church has enjoyed a steady and healthy growth. Organized with twelve members, it had risen in the lapse of a quarter century to about two hundred. After fifty years there were two hundred communicants. In its seventy-fifth year it had four hundred and fifty-three members.

The church has erected three houses of worship. The first was upon the site of the present Baptist church, and was sold to that congregation. The second was upon the site of the present building. It burned down in 1876, the fire starting by accident while a social gathering was being held. After a year of discussion, it was decided to erect a new building rather than rebuild the old. The new church was dedicated March 30, 1878, free of debt. In 1896 extensive alterations were made, a debt lifted and a pipe organ installed.

The congregation has never received large gifts or legacies, but has been dependent upon itself. Thomas Montgomery bequeathed the church one thousand dollars in 1874, to be invested for a permanent income, and in 1883 Misses Eunice and Elizabeth Hendricks gave their homestead to the church for an "Old Ladies Home." This use of the building not prov-



ing practical, its rental was applied to poor relief until, with consent of the donors, the building was sold in 1894.

Harrison House bequeathed the church six hundred and sixty-one dollars in 1893, and two years earlier George Carson left the church one thousand, four hundred dollars, the interest of which could be used in conducting a mission Sunday school in Greensburg. The Carson Memorial mission was opened a year later and the church supplements, as may be necessary, the income from the legacy. An industrial school for girls, a history class for boys and a sewing circle for women are maintained by this mission.

Besides an active Sunday school, there are a number of other church organizations. There is a Christian Endeavor Society, a Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society and a Ladies' Aid Society.

No passing creeds and isms have found expression in the pulpit of this church. The church has resolutely stood for the whole Bible and for Presbyterian standards, when understood as its correct interpretation. For many years it has ranked second or third in the Whitewater presbytery in numerical strength.

On July 3, 1907, a violent windstorm toppled over part of the heavy tower, which crashed through the auditorium, almost wrecking the building. For a time it was thought that it would be necessary to construct a new church, as architects and structural engineers declared that the structure was damaged beyond all hope of repair. It was later found that the foundations and portions of the walls were intact and the building was partially reconstructed. A new heating plant was installed, new walks laid and other improvements made, which, with the reconstruction of the building, cost the congregation eighteen thousand dollars. The rebuilt church was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies, May 9, 1909. While the building was being repaired, the congregation met in the G. A. R. hall and later in the church basement.

The old church, built in 1845, which burned down, was at various times used in part as a school and postoffice, and later Doctor Cook had his office in it. While the postoffice was located in the church, yeggmen blew the safe and made away with a small amount in stamps and coin.

Dr. Walter Hunter Reynolds, the present pastor, is the son of A. J. Reynolds, a Presbyterian minister. He was born in Cincinnati, educated in Wooster College and received his theological training in McCormick Seminary, Chicago. He was given the pulpit of the River Forest church of Chicago upon completing his theological course and later became assistant pastor of the Third Presbyterian church of Chicago, which has a large con-

gregation. Before coming to Greensburg, he had charges at Marion, Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska.

CLARKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The minute book of the Clarksburg Presbyterian church gives the following account of the organization of that church:

"Clarksburg, Indiana, May 20th, 1848.

"At the time and place above written, Rev. James McCoy, acting as a committee of the presbytery of Indianapolis, organized into a church of Christ at their own request and as such set apart by prayer the following brethren and sisters, all of whom were recommended as members in good standing of the Presbyterian church, viz—

"Robert Mitchell and Barbary Mitchell, his wife; Robert M. Stout and Polly Ann Stout, his wife; Jackson G. Lowe and Polly Jane Lowe, his wife; James Donnell, Thomas Donnell and Mary Donnell, his wife; Euphemia Donnell, Euphemia Braden, Angeline Donnell, Cassender Donnell, Susan Donnell and Ruth Jane Braden.

"On motion the church agreed to be known by the name of the Clarksburg Presbyterian church and the church proceeded to elect two ruling elders. Luther A. Donnell and Robert Mitchell were chosen. After appropriate counsel given to the church by the Rev. James McCoy, the meeting closed with prayer by the Rev. Benjamin Franklin."

Rev. A. I. Rankin was probably the best known minister of this church, filling its pulpit for a period of thirty years. He was followed by the following ministers: Harry Nyce, R. A. Bartlett, C. R. Adams, W. F. Sconlad and the present pastor, Homer M. Campbell. The church now has a membership of one hundred and twenty.

SARDINIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Sardinia church was established in 1851 by the Rev. Joseph Monfort and, until it was closed in 1915 and sold to the United Brethren denomination, exerted a wide influence in that section of the county. The church was built upon land donated by John McCormick. B. F. Gaston, who is still living, attended the first Sunday school held there.

Among its charter members were John G. McCormick, Matilda McCormick, William McCormick, Elizabeth McCormick, James Risley, Sarah Risley, Eliza Hankins, James Gregg and Angeline Gregg. C. J. Moore and

Dyer Moore were later elders in this church. A frame church was built in 1852 at a cost of eighteen hundred dollars. With the passing years the church gradually grew weaker and on February 22, 1915, sold their building to the newly organized United Brethren congregation. At that time there were only eight members left.

#### SPRING HILL UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Spring Hill United Presbyterian church is the only one of this denomination in Decatur county and dates back to the early twenties. It was not known by this name when it was organized in this county in 1825, the present name not coming into general use until May 26, 1858. It was formed by the union of the Associate Presbyterian (or Seceder church) with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church at the City of Pittsburgh on the date above mentioned. This denomination differs from other Presbyterian churches in that their songs of praise to God in public and private worship are the psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, dictated by the spirit of God, known in the Bible as the Book of Psalms.

When this branch of Presbyterianism was organized at Spring Hill the church was named New Zion, in honor of the congregation in Lexington, Kentucky, from whence many of the first members came. Their old church in Kentucky was known as Zion and by prefixing New to their church in Decatur county they felt that they were honoring their old church. This name was retained until 1872 when it was thought advisable to change it to Spring Hill.

The first preaching which the infant society enjoyed was in 1821 or 1822, when an associate minister, Reverend Armstrong, stopped over for a day while making an overland trip from Illinois to Ohio. The next preaching was by Rev. Alexander Porter, then pastor of the Hopewell church, in Preble county, Ohio. Among other ministers who preached to the few members of the church previous to its formal organization in 1825 were Revs. John Steel, Hugh Mayne, John Reynolds and S. P. Magaw. The church began its career as an independent congregation on July 30, 1825, when it was established by a committee representing the First presbytery of Ohio. This delegation was composed of Rev. David McDill, Sr., Elders John Foster and William Caldwell, and Thomas Henry, Sr., who had recently settled near Spring Hill.

At this first meeting William Hood and Nathaniel Patton, Sr., having been previously elected elders, were ordained to the ministry. John P.

Mitchell and his wife, Peggy, who were received on certificate, were the first members of New Zion church. The first members received on examination were William Henderson and his wife, Martha, and Nathaniel Lewis. When the first communion was celebrated, in 1827, by Rev. Joseph Claybaugh, the church had a membership of forty.

The first church building was of hewed logs, was thirty feet square, and was thrown up in the fall and winter of 1824. James McCracken and Adam and Andrew Rankin prepared the logs and these men, assisted by James R. Patton and William Anderson, "carried up the corners." The house was not covered until the summer of 1825, at which time a roof of poles and split shingles was tied on with that skill which our good forefathers happily possessed. The shingles were rived on the farm of Samuel Lewis, near Clarksburg. The roof was put on under the direction of William Penny. The seats were such as those occupying them chose to make, everyone supplying their own, some better and some worse. On these seats the patient worshippers could and did sit through a two-hour service in the morning and one of equal length in the afternoon.

The lot (one acre) on which this first church was erected was deeded by Samuel Donnell on January 1, 1825, to the trustees of New Zion congregation, namely: William Henderson, Adam Rankin and James McCracken, for the sum of six dollars and fifty cents. The second lot (two acres) was deeded by William and George A. Anderson, on May 11, 1841, to trustees William B. Lewis, A. J. Dale and William Duncan, for a consideration of one dollar.

In 1832 the congregation had increased to such an extent that it was deemed necessary to enlarge the building. Accordingly, a frame addition of twenty feet was added to the old building by Samuel Henry. In 1837 a frame church took the place of the old log building. In 1862 many trees were planted around the church by William Anderson and future generations have had cause to be grateful for this labor of love on the part of this sterling old pioneers. As the years went by, the congregation became able to build a still more substantial church and in 1892 the present beautiful brick house of worship was erected at a cost of sixteen thousand dollars. A parsonage was built in 1871.

Many of the ablest men of the denomination have served the church as pastor and the following list is as complete as the records disclose: James Worth, 1830-52; Rev. Walker, 1852-67; Samuel Taggart, 1868 (five months); William Johnston, 1871-77; William Ritchie, 1877-79; Alvin Vincent, 1880-88; T. H. McMichael, 1890-93; Harry Crawford, 1893-94;



Paul Stewart, 1896-1900; Neil Ferguson, 1901-05; W. W. McCall, 1906-12; Fred Elliott, since 1914. The first settled minister, James Worth, severed his connection with the church in 1852 to go with a colony of settlers to Oregon. He was a man of unusual attainments, well-grounded in doctrine, a good organizer, faithful in the discharge of his duties, a patron of honesty and uprightness, and to his judicious management and careful training the congregation owes much of its success in later years. No other minister ever served the congregation as long and no other left such an impress on the church.

The present ideal of the church is to be in every sense a community church and the church is now styled the "Spring Hill Community church." The officers are men alive to their responsibilities to the entire community, and every organization of the church seeks to minister, rather than to be ministered unto. The session is honored by the service of two men who have represented Decatur county in the halls of the state Legislature, Jethro C. Meek and William J. Kinkaid. The Sabbath school is under the able and enthusiastic management of Ezra Kirby and is doing very efficient work. The Spring Hill church has furnished to the church at large two college presidents, the Rev. William Johnston, former president of Amity College, of College Springs, Iowa, and the Rev. T. H. McMichael, of Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois. This congregation is justly famous for its loyalty, its liberality, its sociability, its high ideals of community life, and the beautiful location of its meeting house. Its broad Christian spirit is well expressed in the public invitation issued by the church, "To all who mourn and need comfort—to all who are weary and need rest—to all who are friendless and want friendship—to all who are homeless and want sheltering love—to all who pray and to all who do not, but ought—to all who sin and need a saviour, and to whomsoever will—this church opens wide the door and makes a free place, and in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord, says 'Welcome.'"

The present officers of the church are as follow: Minister, Frederick Elliott; session, William Kinkaid (clerk), Theodore Humphrey, Nathan Logan, Robert Donnell, Jethro Meek and Hugh Sparks; treasurer, William Kinkaid; superintendent of the Sunday school, Ezra Kirby; trustees, Edward Sefton (chairman), Thomas J. Kitchin and Elbert C. Meek.



SPRINGHILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.



OLD SPRINGHILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.



## CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

The Christian church, founded by Thomas Campbell, near Pittsburgh, in 1809, and continued by Alexander Campbell, did not take root in Decatur county until 1831, about a year after the movement had taken strength and started to spread to all parts of the country. The first church of this denomination to be established in this county was at Clarksburg. It was organized on November 16, 1831, about ten months before the first Christian church at Greensburg was established.

The history of this denomination in Decatur county was prepared in 1912 by L. D. Braden, of Greensburg, and is made the authority for most of the facts in regard to the church set forth in this volume. The booklet was issued on September 29, 1912, in honor of the eightieth anniversary of the Greensburg church.

Madison Evans, in his "Pioneer Preachers of Indiana," gives the following account of the founding of the church in Greensburg:

"In the fall of 1832 John O'Kane first visited Rush county, where he was employed to evangelize for one year. He and John P. Thompson, of Rush county, traveled together over the counties of Rush, Fayette and Decatur, being the first at almost every point to publish the doctrine of the reformation. When they arrived at Greensburg, O'Kane rang the court house bell and a small audience collected. Thompson preached and one came forward to confess the Lord. This was the first evangelistic sermon and the first disciple at that place, which is now the center of a powerful influence in favor of primitive Christianity. O'Kane followed and three others made the good confession.

"The previous night they preached at a point four miles northwest of Greensburg and two were added to the saved, one of them, a daughter of North Parker, is believed to have been the first person who embraced the ancient gospel in eastern Indiana.

"From that point they continued their journey, the people everywhere gladly receiving the Word. Though sectarian opposition was strong, and there was much ill-feeling toward O'Kane, growing out of his active participation in the presidential campaign, still the disciples were multiplied, new churches established, prejudices eradicated and Bible principles inculcated."



## GREENSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The date of the sermons preached by Thompson and O'Kane in Greensburg was probably Sunday, September 1, 1832. The First Christian church was organized twenty-nine days later in the county seminary, which is still standing on South Franklin street. For two or three years services were held at this place and the county court house. For a long time there was no resident minister, but the church was edified by discourses from visiting clergymen. In 1836 a permanent meeting place was established in a log dwelling on East Main street, owned by Hugh Sidwell.

Four years later the congregation had increased in numbers to such an extent that a more modern structure was needed. Accordingly a comfortable brick church was erected near the railroad. The church was provided with a bell which Gen. James B. Foley had secured from an Ohio river steamboat. This bell was later installed in the spire of the present church.

The old building was torn down in 1870, after the present church was dedicated. Measured by present-day architectural standards the old church left several things to be desired, but when erected it was considered the last word in such structures.

It was forty feet wide, sixty feet long and designed to accommodate two hundred people. Instead of the conventional spire it had a square three-decker steeple which looked as though the builders had exhausted their supply of material before completing their work. This steeple surmounted an overhanging roof, supported by four square pillars.

In these early days a minister schooled in theology was a decided rarity. Most of them were men who made a living for their families following the plow; standing behind the counter or working at the forge. They took their pay in articles of wearing apparel and other necessities, promulgating, in return, doctrines of faith and salvation. Such a man was Carey Smith, a blacksmith, who had been converted through reading "The Christian Baptist," published by Alexander Campbell. Smith moved to Greensburg from Indianapolis in 1833 and preached for three or four years in churches in this part of the state. In 1840 he made a tour of the south under the patronage of Alexander Campbell and died in Mississippi the following year.

The first regular pastor of this denomination at Greensburg was John B. New, father of John C. New, who later owned the *Indianapolis Journal* and was appointed consul general to Liverpool in 1889. New moved to Greensburg from Vernon in 1839. At his first meeting his congregation

numbered but thirteen, three of whom were small boys. Undaunted by the gloomy outlook, he and his wife remained valiantly at the post and organized churches at Antioch, Napoleon, Milroy, Shelbyville and Milford within the next three years.

New possessed a wonderful capacity for work of this nature. In groves, barns, dwellings and school houses within a radius of ten miles from Greensburg, he preached and exhorted daily; often conducting fourteen services a week. At the end of his first year he had added seventy-five members to the First Christian church of Greensburg and erected a new church building at a cost of three thousand dollars. At the end of his pastorate, in 1845, the church had one hundred and fifty members.

His successor was Jacob Wright, a rough-and-ready minister, who preached at Greensburg, Clarksburg, Milford and Clifty for two years. He was the first Christian minister in Decatur county to receive a salary, his stipend being three hundred dollars a year. He was an able debater and frequently shared the rostrum with other ministers who differed with him in matters appertaining to Sunday schools and baptism.

During Wright's pastorate John O'Kane came back to Greensburg. A great concourse was assembled to hear him preach. The aisles were filled and crowds were gathered outside at every window. The evangelist was warming to his theme of regeneration and repentance when a rotten sleeper in front of the pulpit gave way under the unusual weight and the floor dropped three feet to the ground.

The doors swung inward, and in their mad rush for the outside the people jammed the doors fast shut. People were trampled under foot and rolled beneath the seats. Some walked upon seatbacks and jumped through windows to security. At last the doors were opened and a grand rush followed, people tearing the clothes off their neighbors' backs in the mad scramble. No one was seriously injured.

#### BEGINNING OF BUTLER COLLEGE.

A movement which resulted in the foundation of Butler College was started in Greensburg in 1847. At a state convention of the denomination held there in that year a resolution was adopted for the establishment of an institution of learning of the highest grade. A committee was named to make a later report which resulted in the founding of Northwestern Christian University at Indianapolis. Later the name of the institution was changed to Butler College.

Other ministers who filled the Greensburg pulpit between 1846 and the outbreak of the Civil War were Richard Roberts, B. F. Sallee, Thomas Conley and Joseph R. Lucas. Rev. D. R. Van Buskirk, who occupied the pulpit during war times, was a man of marked ability, serving Decatur county during this period in the state Legislature, both in the upper and lower houses of the General Assembly. He was appointed chaplain of the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in 1864. It was during the second year of Van Buskirk's ministry that Alexander Campbell came to Greensburg and preached two sermons in the old church near the railroad. Campbell was then near the close of his life, which he had given to the restoration movement. He was then seventy-four years old and his hair was as white as snow. He delivered a notable discourse on "The Great Commission," and charmed the great congregation with his affable and engaging manner.

The Rev. D. R. Van Buskirk was followed in the Greensburg pulpit by three other ministers, Carl Starks, John Shackelford and Dr. L. L. Pinkerton; then, in 1868, the church decided that a new building was an imperative necessity. The Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad Company had secured a right of way through Decatur county, in 1853, and was running its trains just past the old church, the noise of trains seriously interfering with the solemnity of the services.

Some man of exceptional ability was needed as pastor of the church for this work and the Rev. D. R. Van Buskirk was once more secured. The site of the present church, North Broadway and Hendricks streets, was purchased from W. H. Hazelrigg and B. W. Wilson and work was started upon the erection of an eighteen thousand dollar church, which was dedicated on February 20, 1870, by Rev. Isaac Errett. A revival service was held immediately after the dedication of the church and one hundred members were added to the congregation.

When the Reverend Van Buskirk left for the second time he was followed in the pulpit by the following ministers: W. P. Aylesworth, 1870-71; W. B. Hendryx, 1871-74; U. C. Brewer, 1874-77; S. M. Conner, 1879; G. P. Peale, 1880-82; William Bryan, 1883; W. T. McGowan, 1884; M. W. Harkins, 1885-88; W. C. Payne, 1889-91; C. H. Trout, 1891; T. M. Wiles, 1892-94, and U. M. Browder, 1895-96.

In 1896 the church extended its third call to Reverend Van Buskirk, who filled the pulpit until 1901. During this pastorate he repaired the church, installed ornamental wooden beams and some beautiful memorial windows. His funeral services were held in this church on April 5, 1908. Since this

time the church has been ably served by the following ministers: W. D. Starr, 1902-04; Thomas B. Howe, 1904; Frank W. Summer, 1905; James Mailley, 1905-08; W. G. Johnston, 1908-11; W. J. Cocke, 1911, and A. Homer Jordan, 1912-15.

The first Sunday school was organized in 1850 and was divided into two classes, one for the adult members of the church and one for the children. In the class for men and women considerable stress was laid by the teacher, usually the minister, upon doctrinal tenets of the church, while the younger pupils were likewise given as much instruction in such matters as they could well assimilate.

Modern Sunday-school organization and the international system of lessons came in 1872. Now there are departmental superintendents and adult, intermediate and primary classes, with large enrollments. The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1890 with forty members. It conducts a lecture course each year and makes liberal contributions to the church. Other church organizations are the auxiliary of the Christian Women's Board of Missions and the Christian Endeavor Society.

This last named organization had its inception in 1889 when Dr. A. M. Kirkpatrick formed a young people's society. The present society was organized in the following year. The following, among others, have served the society as president: Grace Dille, Kate Rogers, Brazier Kirby, Nell McCune, W. H. Milner, W. E. Kirby, Ruth Robinson, Rosa Davis, Jessie Elder and William Stolz.

#### CLARKSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Antedating the Greensburg church by ten months, the Clarksburg church has the oldest congregation of Disciples in Decatur county. It was organized on November 16, 1831, with a goodly list of charter members by William Goudge at a place two miles east of Clarksburg and named the Salt Creek Church of Christ.

Among the original members of this church were: Absalom Blackburn, Samuel McClary, George Parish, Joseph Parish, Elisha Cregan, Samuel Githens, John H. Davis, James Davis, William Snelling, Hugh Smothers, Joseph York, William Brown, Thomas Anderson, H. Cartmell, Thomas A. Bryant, Robert N. Higgins, James Higgins, Samuel Blackburn, Abraham Myers, Jesse Barns, Daniel Lewis, John Lowery and Benjamin Goodwin.

McClary and Davis assisted Goudge in the administration of church affairs until 1837, in which year James Conner commenced to preach there.



Conner left in 1842 and the church declined until 1849, when it was reorganized and revived by Jacob Wright as the Clarksburg Christian church. For a time services were held in the Clarksburg school house and in 1850 the congregation built a church of its own.

William Patterson, Joseph Lucas, Daniel Franklin and others filled the pulpit until the beginning of the Civil War, after which the pulpit was vacant until the war closed. The Sunday school was organized in 1868 and now has an enrollment of more than one hundred.

Since the war ended the church has been served by the following ministers: David Matthews, John S. Campbell, Milton T. Hough, L. D. McGowan, J. E. Taylor, R. L. Noel, Z. M. Kenady, Charles Salisbury, D. W. Campbell, W. L. Folks, C. R. Miller, H. H. Nesslage, John McKee, W. E. Payne, E. W. Stairs, H. W. Edwards, T. J. Burke and D. J. Thornton. Deaths and removals have worked heavy injury to the old church in the last score of years and the congregation now numbers less than seventy-five members.

#### WESTPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The third oldest Christian church now existing in the county is located at Westport. It was organized about 1850 by L. S. Giddings, L. C. Scott, their wives and, perhaps, some others. For a time services were held in an old log school house in Westport. In the early sixties a frame meeting-house was erected, which was used by the congregation until the present church was finished in 1912. As late as 1867 the seats used were the old-fashioned benches with no backs. The congregation now has a membership of one hundred and seventy-five.

Among the ministers who have filled the pulpit of this church are William Patterson, John A. Campbell, W. M. Gard, H. B. Sherman, Alphonso Burns, W. E. Payne, R. B. Givens, M. O. Jarvis and M. R. Scott, the present pastor.

The church has a flourishing Sunday school, and a Ladies' Aid Society, which takes an active interest in the affairs of the church.

#### MOWREY CHAPEL.

The Milford Christian church was organized in 1842, flourishing for a time and passed out of existence in 1884. Nineteen years later the few members left decided to reorganize the church and continue its work. Contributions were solicited for a new church, the old one having been torn

down, and the new edifice, built at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars, was dedicated in 1904.

Nelson Mowrey, Decatur county's leading philanthropist, although not a member of the church, gave the congregation a substantial sum of money and the new building was named in his honor. Rev. Fred R. Davies, of Charlestown, was the pastor for a number of years, the church experienced a substantial growth and now has a membership of about one hundred.

This church's predecessor was founded by Milton B. Hopkins, who was just then beginning his ministerial career. George King, McClure Elliott, Robert Braden and John H. Braden were some of its charter members. The first meetings were held at the home of Mr. King. A month later a church was built, all labor and material being donated by members.

During the period before the Civil War, John B. New, Jacob Wright, Richard Roberts and others preached at this place. Following the war J. S. Young, William Patterson, James Land, James O. Cutts, John Brazelton and Frank Talmage occupied the pulpit. In 1874 and 1876 Knowles Shane and Alfred Elmore held two very successful revivals and the membership of the church rose past the two hundred mark.

A few years later interest began to wane and finally in 1884 the church was abandoned. The old church, which the early members had built with clumsy axes, was neglected and at last torn down.

#### ADAMS CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Christian church at Adams was organized by Jacob Wright in 1859, with the following charter members: William, Sarah and Elizabeth Colwell, Mary Woodward, Joseph and Martha Pleak, Willet and Nancy Stark, Jane Johnson, Mary, Clara, William, Parish, Lavina and Belle Aldrich, Phoebe and Ephraim Wagner, Thomas Whitaker, Martha Inman, Charley Moor, Elizabeth Bennet, Thomas Johnson and Eliza Pearce.

Until 1872 the congregation met in dwellings and in the old school house. In that year a comfortable brick building was erected, which is still in use. The church now has seventy members. Ministers during the past two decades have been: C. L. Riley, I. B. Grisso, G. H. Brewer, C. G. Cantrell, H. B. Sherman, D. R. Van Buskirk, S. J. Tomlinson, H. M. Hall, C. S. Johnson, W. T. McGowan and D. J. Thornton.

## WAYNESBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Elder William Patterson is supposed to have been the first minister for the Waynesburg church, which was probably founded in 1855. The church occupied a small building until 1877, in which year a better building was erected. This building was struck by lightning and burned in 1898. Since that time another structure has been erected on the same site. The church has a membership of eighty. Among its recent pastors are John A. Campbell, W. M. Gard, Alphonso Burns, Z. M. Kenady and Henry Ashley.

## NEWPOINT CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

James Young of Kentucky organized the Newpoint church in the winter of 1862 in the old school house at that place. For a time the church flourished and then lapsed into inactivity for about seven years. Then interest in the church was again aroused and a new building was erected. This edifice was dedicated on Christmas Day, 1870, and a revival followed, which resulted in ninety-nine additions to the church. Some of the active members at that time were Eph Wagoner and wife, Thomas Brown and wife, W. E. Barkley and wife; Elizabeth Barkley, Mrs. M. E. Main, William Higdon and wife; Mrs. J. L. Hilliard, Joel Pennington and wife; Mrs. Thomas Hart, Mrs. Samuel Thomas, Mrs. Rosetta Starks and Mrs. Phillip Lawrence.

The church now has more than one hundred members and has a good Sunday school. The following Butler College men have occupied the pulpit there: S. R. Wilson, M. T. Hoff, J. H. Gavin and C. Goodnight. In 1912 Rev. William Chapple, of Columbus, conducted a revival which added thirty-eight to the church, the second largest number received in its history.

## ST. PAUL CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Although the youngest church of the denomination in the county, the St. Paul Christian church is one of the most active and ranks second numerically. It was organized on March 2, 1874, at the Union church, with sixty-one charter members. Milton Copeland, James Fishback and William Hann were ordained as elders and A. H. Thompson, W. H. Walters, O. J. Grubb, Henry Leffler, James Hanger, C. A. Pearse, M. A. Leffler and L. A. Van Scyoc were ordained as deacons.

Ten years later the church building was surrendered to the Lutherans, the Christian congregation taking the seats and fixtures. Services and Sun-

day school were held for a time in the school house and then the congregation disbanded for lack of a meeting-place.

In 1888 the church was reorganized and the congregation rented the former meeting-place. In 1893 this building was purchased outright from the Lutherans. Two years later the old church was rebuilt and was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on August 25, 1895.

Since its organization the church has received more than four hundred persons into membership and now has a congregation of two hundred. It has an excellent Sunday school and a flourishing Ladies' Aid Society.

Following are ministers who have been regularly installed by the congregation of this church: N. A. Walker, Isaac Tomlinson, Charles Salisbury, Walter S. Smith, Charles Riley, Z. M. Kenady, V. G. Carmichael, Alphonso Burns, Cloyd Goodnight, James Conner, J. L. Roberts, Perry Case, E. W. Stairs, R. H. Webb, A. Burns, Clarence Reidenbach, Stanley Selleck and George E. Beatty. The latter took charge of the church in February, 1914, but was compelled to resign in December of the same year, on account of ill health. The Sunday school, under the superintendency of Ora Pearce, has an average attendance of forty-five. Mrs. Courtney Kanouse is president of the Ladies' Aid Society.

#### DISCONTINUED CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

Four churches of this denomination, founded in Decatur county during the past four decades, have passed out of existence. Antioch church, founded by John B. New in 1840, disbanded in 1875. Union Chapel, ten miles south of Greensburg, went down in 1880 after an existence of thirty years. A church started at Mechanicsburg in 1865 lasted fifteen years. The Clifty church, founded about 1840, ended its career in 1875.

#### UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

The United Brethren in Christ came into existence at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in the year Washington was inaugurated President. In that year William Otterbein and Martin Boehm, German ministers of the Reformed and Mennonite churches, respectively, first used the term United Brethren in Christ and the church may be said to have started that year. In this eventful year there was a great religious awakening in Pennsylvania and large union services were held at various places. One night, in the barn of one Thomas Newcomer, in Lancaster, Martin Boehm preached a powerful



sermon and, as soon as he was through, William Otterbein, who had never heard him preach before, and, in fact, had never seen him before this particular night, walked up to him and greeted him thus: "We ought to be 'United Brethren in Christ,' for the doctrine which you have just preached is also my firm belief." Thus did the church come into existence. The first annual conference was held in 1800 and from that day forward the church has enjoyed a steady growth. The stronghold of the church is in the state of Ohio. There are five churches of the denomination in Decatur county at the present time: St. Omer, Fredonia, Mapleton, Lower Union and Sardinia.

#### FREDONIA CHURCH.

The Fredonia church is located a mile and a half south of Westport and dates its beginning from the early forties. The early records of the church are not available, but from one of the oldest residents of the community the following facts have been gleaned. Felix Boicourt and his two children, Catherine and Absalom, started the church and for many years the meetings were held in their home. A school house later was used until such a time as the little congregation was able to build a log church. Later a frame house of worship was erected, which, with improvements from time to time, is still in use. H. W. White is the present pastor and has a flourishing congregation of one hundred and thirty members. The Sunday school, under the superintendency of R. E. Mattix, has an average attendance of forty. Mrs. Elsie Mattix is president of the Christian Endeavor; Mrs. Reuben Ford is at the head of the Ladies' Aid Society, while Mrs. H. W. White is the directing spirit of the Woman's Missionary Society.

#### MAPLETON CHURCH.

The Mapleton United Brethren church, which dates from about 1850, is situated two and a half miles northeast of Westport. The Boicourt family—David Boicourt and wife and George Boicourt and wife—were charter members. Like its sister church at Fredonia, it first worshipped in private homes until such a time as it was in a position to erect a separate house of worship. For many years the church was locally known as the Horse Shoe Bend church. The present pastor is H. W. White. The heads of the different auxiliaries of the church are as follow: Sunday school, L. E. Jessup; Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. Emma Skinner. There are now one hundred and ten active members.

LOWER UNION CHURCH.

The United Brethren church known as Lower Union is located about three and three-fourths miles southeast of Westport. The congregation existed for many years before the present church was erected, in 1862, and had for some time worshipped in a log building across the road from the present church. The church of 1862 was built by the united efforts of the Baptists and United Brethren, and probably other denominations, and is still a union church. The two denominations use it alternately and both have their separate Sunday schools. The only auxiliary organization maintained by the United Brethren is the Sunday school, which, under the leadership of Elmer Smith, is doing good work with the forty who attend regularly. Rev. H. W. White is the pastor.

SARDINIA CHURCH.

The United Brethren church at Sardinia is less than a year old, being organized November 19, 1914, and owes its existence to the faithful efforts of Rev. S. S. Turley, who established it and still remains as its pastor. During the winter of 1914-15 he held a revival in Sardinia and when he proposed the establishment of a United Brethren church he found sixty-two people who were ready to become charter members. Among the charter members were John and Goldie Gross, Mrs. Lizzie Ammerman, Mrs. Bertha Vonblaricum and Mrs. Jennie Foist. On February 22, 1915, the congregation bought the Presbyterian church and are now expending five hundred dollars in improving it, the original cost being two hundred dollars. Services are held by the pastor every Sunday evening and a mid-week prayer meeting has been attended with most gratifying results. The class leader is Thomas Talkington; James Cann is superintendent of the Sunday school; Miss E. Rose Meredith is president of the Christian Endeavor Union. Reverend White also serves charges at Grammer and Mt. Calvary in Bartholomew county.

PENTECOST CHUCH, GREENSBURG.

In 1902 Greensburg was visited by several persons of the Pentecost faith. They were unable to find a place of worship according to their own faith, and held services in an old house on East North street. These meetings were well attended and the house in which they were holding their services at that time did not furnish ample room to accommodate the worship-

pers. George Little, seeing the disadvantage under which they labored, came forward with this proposition: That if fifty of the members would contribute five cents per week, making a guarantee of ten dollars per month, he would provide them with a house of worship. In addition to this, a contract must be made to keep the house for three years, at which time he would turn it over to them as the rent for this length of time would pay for the building. Mr. Littell also agreed to donate the lot and give one hundred dollars in cash on the completion of such building.

This proposition was immediately accepted and Mr. Littell began making plans for their house of worship. He purchased the old Antioch church, located on the Madison road, from Alexander Hillis, who had been one of the deacons in that church. Mr. Hillis asked permission to keep the old church Bible. Mr. Littell immediately complied with this request and asked Mr. Hillis to bring it to the dedication of the new church and also give some public utterance at the services, all of which he did.

The old church building, which was in a good state of preservation, was moved to a beautiful lot in the eastern part of Greensburg and fitted up for services. But before the building had reached completion there arose a turmoil among the Pentecost brothers and they failed to comply with their part of the agreement. Consequently, Mr. Littell was left with the house of worship on his hands, as no one came to worship.

This state of affairs lasted until April 10, 1902, when it was dedicated by a Mr. Mounts under the Pentecost leadership. This lasted for some time and finally the interest began to wane. This church at present is the property of the trustees of the Second Christians, but the historian, with his present knowledge of theology, is unable to distinguish this faith. The services are now conducted by Rev. Jacob Cruiser.

#### GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

German Lutherans held services for a time in the city hall, Greensburg, beginning about 1870, but never mustered sufficient strength to erect a church of their own. Never more than twenty families attended the services, which were discontinued after a few years. One of the ministers who preached to this congregation was Karl Jacobs.

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

For thirteen years (1898-1911) Episcopalians held regular services in their own church in Greensburg, and then the denomination, weakened by

the death of a prominent member, closed the doors of the building, which is still standing on Hendricks street. For two years prior to the erection of the church in 1900 services were held in the city hall. When the church was erected there were twenty-one persons in the parish. The following rectors, among others, conducted services in Greensburg until the church was closed in 1911: Revs. Willis D. Engle, John Neady, James W. Comfort and George Gallup.

#### CHURCH OF GOD.

There is another abandoned church in Greensburg and it stands at West North and Anderson streets. It is the Church of God and was built in 1887, following a wonderful revival and evangelistic service held in the opera house by Mrs. Maria Woodworth, evangelist of the cult.

Mammoth crowds attended the services. People went into trances and walked the floor in a frenzy or seemingly lost consciousness and became stiff and rigid. The utmost excitement prevailed. Before conducting services in Greensburg, Mrs. Woodworth had preached at Muncie, Indiana, with similar results.

Following the meeting in the opera house, a church was organized and meetings were held for a time in a tent. Then the church building was erected, at a cost of about one thousand dollars. Then interest in the movement seemed to die, and, save only when Mrs. Woodworth made periodical visits to the city, the attendance was very small. At last the doors were locked and the church stands empty, vacant reminder of an emotional storm that once shook a city.

#### CHRISTIAN (NEW LIGHT) CHURCH.

While there have been many members of the New Light division of the Christian church, there has been, as far as has been discovered, only one church built by this denomination. Strictly speaking, it was erected by one man of the denomination. Several years before the Civil War, a Kentuckian by the name of Jacob Sidner, a stanch member of the New Lights, built on one corner of his farm a substantial brick house of worship for his church. It was in Washington township on the Moscow road, about two and a half miles northwest of Greensburg. The building, which was later used for a school house, is still standing, a tribute to the religious zeal of this one man. Before he built his church, Sidner used to send to Kentucky once a year for the best New Light preacher he could get and have him conduct a



sort of a camp meeting in a grove near his home in Washington township. He prepared seats in the grove, paid all the expenses and reveled in one good New Light service annually. Eventually, he felt justified in erecting a church for his people, but there does not appear to have been a very flourishing congregation at any time during its career. Who the preachers were, who the members were, or the date when the church was abandoned have been lost in the flight of time. The only person who has a definite recollection of the man and his church is the Rev. J. B. Lathrop, of Greensburg, who gave the above facts.

#### GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The only German Methodist church in Decatur county is located in Salt Creek township, a mile and a half south of Smith's Crossing. The church dates its beginning from the time the first Germans of this denomination located in this part of the county. They worshipped in private houses and school houses for a time and in 1864-65 built the church, which is still in use. In the summer of 1915 extensive improvements were made in the way of new roof and painting on the exterior and redecorating the interior. Sunday school is maintained and regular preaching services are held every two weeks by the pastor, Rev. William Wiegen, of Batesville. A well-kept cemetery adjoins the church.

#### GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The German Lutherans have one congregation in the county. This is situated in Salt Creek township, two miles west of New Pennington and only one mile south of the one German Methodist church in the county. This church, known as St. Paul's, was established shortly before the opening of the Civil War and the present building was erected in 1861. The pastor in 1915 is Rev. William Schirmer, who lives in the parsonage adjoining the church.

#### THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY OF GREENSBURG.

The beginning of all societies and churches of the Christian Science denomination may often be traced to some knowledge of the healing of ills "that flesh is heir to."

The Christian Science Society of Greensburg, Indiana, is not an exception to this rule. Mrs. Mary J. G. Griswold and Edith S. Griswold, mother

and daughter, are the first known people in the county seat to benefit by Christian Science treatment. As a result they opened their home, at No. 128 West Hendricks street, for services in 1902.

In 1911, loyal students of Indianapolis and Chicago presented the little band with a public meeting place in the Woodfill building, at the northwest corner of the public square, maintaining the gift for a period of twelve months. Services are still held in this building on every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening.

The Sunday services of this denomination, the world over, are conducted by a first and second reader, who read the same lesson-sermon from the Christian Science quarterly Bible lessons, prepared by an authorized committee of the mother church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts. The scriptural texts are from the King James' version; their correlative passages are from the denominational text-book "Science and Health, With Key to the Scriptures," by Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy, discoverer and founder of Christian Science.

The reading for the Wednesday evening meetings is from these two books, which are the only preachers of the denomination. This is followed with testimonies, experiences, and remarks on Christian Science. The democratic form of government obtains in the society, the majority rule being recognized. The customary reading room is open in Greensburg on Tuesday and on Saturday afternoon of each week. The present membership of the Greensburg Christian Science Society numbers twelve.

#### UNITED BRETHREN.

The first United Brethren preaching in the county was at the house of John Khorer, who came from Clermont county, Ohio, in 1824, and settled on the banks of Clifty. Khorer was one of the wealthiest citizens in the county and built one of the most elegant houses in this part of the state. His house was open to all preachers for many years, and here was organized the first United Brethren class, some time before the forties. About 1840 a frame house of worship was built on Khorer's farm in Jackson township.

There were three so-called "war churches" built in Jackson township during the war, which were to eschew all mention of politics, and, so some said, they not only had no politics, but also no religion. Be that as it may, they died soon after the war closed. They were strictly a war by-product and, with the struggle over, there was no further excuse for their existence.

J. A. Dillman, in the *Standard* of May 28, 1897, says of these three churches, "One has stood idle for many years, another was sold for a barn, and the third, after many changes, is still used as a church house."

#### CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN DECATUR COUNTY.

Greensburg Catholics, few in number before the Civil War, held services for a number of years in residences of members of that denomination. In 1855 Father E. Martinovic, who had charge of the mission, erected a small brick church and Rev. John Gilling became the first resident priest, ministering to the parish from 1863 to 1871. He was succeeded by Rev. John L. Brassard, who remained for a year or more. Then, save for an occasional mass, celebrated by a visiting priest, the parish was without guidance until 1874, in which year Rev. Daniel Curran came. At this time there were no more than twenty-five families residing in the parish.

The coming of Rev. Father Curran marked the beginning of a new epoch in the history of St. Mary's. During his three years of ministration in Greensburg, he built a new parish house, a parochial school with room for a hundred pupils and a teachers' residence. His health broke under the arduous labor and he was compelled to give up his work, dying a short time afterward. Rev. Henry Kessing was placed in charge in 1877 and remained until his death in 1882, by which time there were about seventy-five families in the parish, which was fast outgrowing the old brick church. Then came Rev. George Steigerwald, at that time one of the ablest men in the diocese. He took charge in 1883 and at once laid plans for the present church, which was completed a short time later at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars.

Rev. George Steigerwald was a graduate of Heidelberg University and besides his scholarly attainments possessed unusual personal endowments. He was genial and affable in his relations with those outside his church and did much to break down prejudices existent before his coming. Upon his departure in 1897, he presented the parish with the present parish home, his personal property.

For the next seventeen years Rev. Lawrence Fichter was in charge of St. Mary's parish. This was a period of unusual growth, as Reverend Fichter induced a large number of substantial German Catholic families to settle in the vicinity of Greensburg.

The present priest, Rev. Father Fein, came to St. Mary's in 1913, from St. Joseph's parish in Vanderburg county. He has placed a new organ in







ST. MAURICE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.



ST. OMER U. B. CHURCH, ADAMS TOWNSHIP.

the church and plans the erection of a fifteen thousand-dollar parochial school. The present parish membership is more than eight hundred.

ST. MAURICE'S PARISH.

The village of St. Maurice was laid out in 1858 and was named in honor of Bishop Maurice De St. Okaus. The Christian Brothers started a school the same year; but upon the death of their leader, Brother John Mary Weitman, the teachers returned to France. The Brothers had laid out the town upon forty acres of ground, of which nine and thirty-five hundredths acres belonged to the parish. A chapel was built in connection with the school which later served as a church for the parish. It was a frame structure, later converted into a school building, and is now a residence, owned by Frank Nienaber.

Among the first settlers in the village were: Martin Mauer, Stephan Brigler, Leonard Hemmerle, Magdalena Hemmerle, Herman Schroeder, John Altenan, Henry Oesterling, Edward Hellmich, Henry Groene and Henry Hopster.

The first mass was celebrated at St. Maurice by the Franciscan priest from Enochsburg. There were at that time sixteen families in the parish. The ten acres of ground and the first building cost the Brothers two thousand dollars. They raised one thousand dollars and borrowed the remainder. The first resident priest was Rev. Ferdinand Hundt, who was appointed in 1884. He was succeeded, in 1886, by Rev. Francis X. Seegmuller, who remained until 1891, when Rev. John B. Unverzagt took charge of the parish.

The present church was built in 1881-82 at a cost of ten thousand dollars. The interior was remodeled and redecorated in 1912, during the pastorate of the Rev. Michael Wagner. St. Maurice is justly proud of its beautiful church. The rectory was built in 1855, at a cost of two thousand two hundred dollars, and the present school building, which cost approximately four thousand dollars, in addition to donated labor, was erected in 1907.

Since the departure of the Rev. Father Unverzagt the following clergymen have had charge of the parish, Rev. Charles Schoeppner, O. F. M.; Rev. Alexander Koesters, Rev. Michael Wagner and the present pastor, Rev. Herman J. Gadlage. The church now has an enrollment of sixty-five families and an enrollment of three hundred and twenty-five souls.

The parish societies are the following: St. Martin's Men's Society; St.  
(18)

Aloysius's Young Men's Society; St. Elizabeth's Married Ladies' Society and the Blessed Virgin Mary's Young Ladies' Society.

#### OLDEST PARISH IN COUNTY.

The church of the Immaculate Conception, at Millhousen, Rev. J. P. Gillig, pastor, was the first Catholic parish organized in the county of Decatur.

On June 20, 1840, Maximilian Schneider donated forty acres of land, in trust, to Rt. Rev. Celestine de la Hailandiere, bishop of Vincennes, for the benefit of the Catholics of Millhousen, and in the same year the congregation, consisting of thirteen families, decided to erect a house of worship. This was a plain log building, twenty by twenty-four feet, with a rough exterior, chinked and daubed with mud, and was constructed under the auspices of Rev. Joseph Ferneding. The flock was comprised of Germans, and among the foremost of these in promoting the interests of the congregation, as well as of the town, was Bernard Hardebeck. The first missionary priests, following Father Ferneding, were Revs. Conrad Schneiderjans, M. O'Rourke and Ramon Weinzoepfel, who labored until 1843. From 1843 until 1854, Rev. Alphonse Munschina and Rev. Joseph Rudolf were the only two laborers in this field, and of these Father Rudolf, whose residence was at Oldenburg, performed prodigious labors, visiting Franklin, Dearborn, Ripley and Decatur counties.

The increase of Catholics at Millhousen was surprising; wherefore they determined to build, instead of the wooden church, a good-sized brick church, thirty-eight by sixty feet. This was completed in 1850, and dedicated as St. Boniface's church. As the Rev. Alphonse Munschina, who had charge of the church, resided at St. Ann's, in Jennings county, it was deemed expedient by the people to have a priest residing in their midst; at their request, Rev. Peter Kreusch built, in 1856, the present parish house, which at the time was the finest in the diocese. In 1857 he erected a large school house and now the congregation has two splendid brick school buildings, the schools being attended by one hundred and seventy pupils. The schools are in charge of the Franciscan Sisters of Oldenburg, assisted by a lay teacher for boys.

The erection of the church of the Immaculate Conception, fifty-five by one hundred and forty feet, forty-six and one-half feet in height, was commenced under Rev. F. Hundt, the ceremonies of laying the corner stone occurring on May 24, 1867; and the building was completed under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Hueser and dedicated on August 4, 1869. In 1893 a spire was built which reaches one hundred and seventy-five feet above the ground. On

November 7, 1870, Rev. F. W. Pepersack took charge and was succeeded, on July 2, 1885, by Rev. Joseph Schuck, and he, in October, 1891, by the Rev. John P. Gillig. Father Gillig remained with the church until June 15, 1904, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. A. Urich, the present pastor. The congregation is now estimated to be at least two hundred and fifty families, or nearly two thousand souls. The great majority of these live in Decatur county, although there are several living in Ripley and Jennings counties.

#### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH AT ST. PAUL.

St. Paul's church dates its formal organization from September 21, 1858, when twelve Catholic families were given permission to build a church in the village of St. Paul. However, previous to that date services had been held irregularly in the homes of the members of the church. The lot for the new church was donated by John Paul and E. L. Floyd, non-Catholics, living in St. Paul. Immediately after permission had been granted for the erection of a church, steps were taken for the construction of the same and the work was pushed with loyal vigor by the devoted members of the congregation. The dedication of the church took place on July 31, 1859, and the same building, with many extensive improvements, is still in use today. Owing to the small number of members it has never been able to maintain a resident priest. For several years the church was attached to St. Mary's, at Greensburg, and was served by the pastors from that place. Since 1885 it has been a mission of St. Vincent's at Shelbyville. Among the priests from Greensburg who served St. Paul were Fathers John P. Gillig, J. L. Brascart, Daniel Curran, Henry Kessing and George Stiegerwald. The following priests from Shelbyville have ministered to the congregation: Revs. M. L. Guthneck, G. M. Ginnsz, F. Hundt, A. Danenhofer, Charles Strickler, Joseph T. Bauer and F. Ketter, the present pastor. The church now has a membership of seventy.

#### ST. JOHN'S AT ENOCHSBURG.

The early history of the Catholic church at Enochsburg, a pleasant village on the Decatur-Franklin county line, is rather obscure, although it is known that Father Rudolph was serving a small congregation of Catholics in that neighborhood at as early a date as October, 1844. From accounts handed down, it is known that a log chapel in the woods surrounding Enochsburg was dedicated by Father Rudolph on December 22, 1844. This mission



was attached to the Oldenburg parish and continued to be served from the Oldenburg church until 1862, in which year Rev. Lawrence Oesterling, a Franciscan priest, became the first resident pastor. In 1853 the parish erected a small stone school building, thirty by thirty-five feet in size; shortly thereafter beginning the erection of a stone church, which was dedicated in 1856. This church, which is still serving the needs of the parish, was built of dressed gray limestone and is fifty by one hundred and five feet in dimension, the height of the spire being one hundred and thirty-five feet; three bells being hung in the tower. Since the church was erected numerous improvements have been added thereto; notably during the pastorate of Father Pfeifer (1882-99), who frescoed the church, installed new altars, purchased new statues, put a slate roof on the church, installed an organ and made extensive improvements in the grounds surrounding the church property.

In 1868 Rev. Michael Heck succeeded Father Oesterling as pastor, remaining until 1879. During his pastorate a brick residence of eight rooms was erected, and in 1872 he had the satisfaction of dedicating a substantial school building for the children of the parish. He secured the services of the Venerable Sisters of Oldenburg as teachers and from that time down to the present a flourishing school has been maintained, more than seventy-five children being enrolled during the current term. In 1879 Father Heck was transferred to St. Wendel's parish, in Posey county, this state, where he spent the rest of his life in faithful ministration, his death occurring in 1899.

Following Father Heck, Rev. John Stolz was placed in charge at St. John's, but he remained only a few months. In 1879 Rev. J. W. Kemper was installed as pastor, his service continuing until 1882, in which year Rev. James Pfeiffer entered upon his notably successful pastorate, continuing in charge until 1899, when he was transferred to St. Wendel's to fill the vacancy created by the death of Father Heck. Rev. Joseph Haas then was sent to St. John's and for ten years faithfully served that parish; he being succeeded in 1909 by Rev. Henry Verst, who continued in charge until July, 1914, when the present pastor, Rev. Mathias Schmitz, was installed. St. John's parish has a membership of more than three hundred and seventy souls. While the church usually is associated with Franklin county, it really stands in this county, being on this side of the county line. The parochial residence stands on the Franklin-Decatur line, while the school house stands in Franklin county.

## CATHOLIC CHAPEL OF WESTPORT.

Several years ago the Catholics in Westport held services in the building now occupied by Harry Reidenbach as a jewelry store. There were not a sufficient number of Catholics to establish a church, and the bishop granted them permission to establish a chapel where they might worship under the protection of St. Denis, the nearest Catholic church in Jennings county. The chapel has now been discontinued many years and the few Catholics in Westport and immediate vicinity are attached to the St. Denis parish.

## CHAPTER IX.

### BENCH AND BAR.

The judicial history of Decatur county falls into two periods, namely, the period of the old constitution, 1822-1853, and the period following. The constitution of 1852 made a marked change in the judiciary of the state and subsequent amendments to the constitution (1881) and statutory legislation have made still further changes. Under the Constitution of 1816 the supreme court of Indiana and the president judges were elected by the state Legislature; where as the present Constitution provides for the election of all judges by the people. The old Constitution divided the state into judicial circuits and placed over each circuit what was known as the president judge. At first there were only three circuits for the fifteen counties of the state then in existence. Each county elected two judges, known as associate judges, and these, with the president judge, had jurisdiction over all the civil and criminal business of the respective counties.

The president judges, as well as the associate judges, were elected for a term of seven years. The clerk of the common-pleas court was elected for a like term. These judges served both as common-pleas and circuit judges, and, in the case of Decatur county, had charge of most of the probate work, as well. The records disclose only two probate judges, these serving during the decade following 1839. These two probate judges were Angus C. McCoy, 1839-43, and John Thomson, 1843-49.

The president judges who held court in Decatur county from 1822 to 1853 were as follow: W. W. Wick, B. F. Morris, Miles C. Eggleston, Samuel Bigger, James Perry, Jehu P. Elliott, George A. Dunn, William M. McCarty, Reuben D. Logan, Jeremiah M. Wilson, William A. Cullen and Samuel A. Bonner. Associate judges during this period were: Martin Adkins, John Fugit, John Bryson, Zachariah Garton, John Thomson, John Hopkins, Samuel Ellis, Richard C. Talbott and George Cable.

Beginning in 1853, there were separate common-pleas and circuit judges until 1873, in which year the common-pleas court was abolished by the Legislature. As near as can be ascertained from the record, the following judges served on the common-pleas bench during these twenty years: Royal P.

Cobb, Samuel A. Bonner, John Davis, David S. Gooding and William A. Moore, the latter of whom was serving when the office was abolished.

The jurisdiction of the circuit judges of the district including Decatur county has been changed a number of times by the Legislature and has at various times covered Franklin, Henry, Rush, Shelby and Bartholomew counties in the ninth judicial circuit. Since 1899 Decatur has been united with Bartholomew county for judicial purposes. The following circuit judges have presided over the district, including Decatur county: William M. McCarty, 1853; R. D. Logan, 1860-65; Jeremiah Wilson, 1865-71; William A. Cullen, 1871-77; Samuel A. Bonner, 1877-89; John W. Study, 1889-93 (Study died in office and his unexpired term was filled by James K. Ewing); James K. Ewing, 1893-95; John D. Miller, 1895-98 (died in office); David A. Myers, 1898; Douglas Morris, 1898-1901; Francis T. Hord, 1901-04; Marshal Hacker, 1904-10; Hugh D. Wickens, 1910-1916.

Of the above, Bonner, Study, Ewing, Miller, Myers and Wickens were residents of Decatur county.

#### A MYSTERY OF THE OLDEN DAYS.

Considerable mystery lurks about the cause of the death of Judge Martin Adkins, one of the first two associate judges of the county. Adkins died in 1841, at Cincinnati, where he had gone with a drove of hogs. At the time he was under indictment for shooting "Dick" Stewart, his son-in-law, with intent to kill. He had been tried once and the jury disagreed, one juror, it is said, holding out for his acquittal.

His employees brought home a coffin, which was interred, without being opened, in the old Mt. Moriah cemetery. This rather peculiar circumstance gave rise to two rumors, one that he had committed suicide in order to evade the ends of justice and the other that his reported death was untrue and that he had left for parts unknown. The exact truth, which might have been in a measure ascertained, by exhuming the coffin, was never known.

Enemies of Free Masonry charged at the time the jury disagreed that Adkins, being a Mason, had been saved from the penitentiary by a member of the organization, who was on the jury. There was at that time no Masonic lodge in Greensburg, but Levi A. McQuithy, who was a juror, was a Mason.

John Fugit, the other member of the original court of associate judges, was a native of Virginia. He was tall and thin, with broad shoulders and an eye as bright as an eagle's. When his six years on the bench were over he



served one or two terms as a justice of the peace in Clay township. He had three sons who attained local eminence. Hugh was an attorney at Milford; James L. was a justice of the peace and later deputy sheriff and Isaac W. was also an attorney, and served for a time as postmaster at St. Paul, this county.

Hopkins, one of the associate judges at the time the office was abolished, was foreman of the first grand jury which convened in the county, was first county treasurer and was a charter member of the Kingston Presbyterian church. His parents wished to prepare him for the ministry, declaring that he was a born theologian. He was a Democrat of the Jackson-Benton school and believed in hard money. He cared little for popularity and had he played politics, might have reached a high place in the affairs of Indiana.

#### EARLY MURDER TRIALS.

One of the most famous murder trials ever held in Decatur county was that of James Wiley, who was convicted in June, 1869, of the murder of Joseph Woodward, and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was pardoned after serving ten years and died soon after his release from the penitentiary.

Wiley killed Woodward in a fight at Milford, in November, 1868, when Republicans were celebrating the election of Grant. Hiram Alley received a two years' sentence for complicity in the crime. Judge George H. Chapman, of Indianapolis, occupied the bench at the trial. The verdict was returned after an hour's deliberation.

One of the most famous murder trials that ever came before the Decatur county bench was that of Jacob Block and Elsa Block, brought here from Rush county upon a change of venue. The Blocks, father and son, were Hebrews and were charged with the murder of Eli Block, a Hebrew merchant and a business competitor. The Blocks spent large sums of money in providing for their defense and an imposing array of legal talent was gathered at the Decatur county court house when the case was tried.

The case was tried before Judge James C. Hiller, of Indianapolis. Jacob Block, the father, had been previously tried at Rush county and had been found guilty of murder in the first degree, but the higher courts had sustained a motion in error and ordered a new trial. He was represented by Daniel W. Voorhees, while the son was defended by Charles H. Blackburn, a famous Cincinnati criminal lawyer. Both were sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.

## STEPPING-STONE TO CONGRESS.

One of the early cases tried in Decatur county courts is related by Oliver H. Smith in a series of articles in the old *Indianapolis Journal* on "Early Indiana Trials." The case was tried before Associate Judges Fugit and Adkins, in 1823. The case was against a man who had refused to work two days on a school house, as provided by law. James T. Brown defended the man and Mr. Smith appeared for the school commissioner.

Brown facetiously raised the point that his client was not able-bodied, although he was over six feet tall and proportionately broad. Judge Fugit ruled thus:

"Yes, Mr. Brown, that is the point—you plead well on that, but it is nothing but the plea of a lawyer; you admitted that the man who stood before us was your client, and the court will take notice, 'fishio,' as the law books say, that he is an able-bodied man and no mistake; judgment for two dollars."

Smith says that he received his fee of five dollars and always after had Decatur county's undivided support when he was a candidate for Congress.

## EARLY BAR HISTORY.

When counties in southern Indiana were organized and for many years thereafter, members of the legal profession were few in number, but were usually men of striking personality and great force of character. There were two terms of circuit court a year and lawyers followed the presiding judge on his rounds, taking whatever business came their way.

Consequently, it is not surprising that when the first meeting of the Decatur county circuit court was held, April 9, 1822, several attorneys were on hand to ask for permission to practice their profession in this court. The old county records show that three lawyers were admitted to the Decatur county bar on this date. They were Thomas Douglass, Joseph A. Hopkins and Seth Tucker. Beyond swearing in a county clerk and the appointment of Joseph Hopkins as prosecuting attorney, the court transacted no business. When the October term began, October 7, two more attorneys sought and received admission to the bar. They were James T. Brown and Charles H. Test.

Nothing is known of Douglass, beyond the original entry, showing that the first court held in the county gave him permission to practice his

profession in Decatur county. Tucker's record has also been lost, but it is presumed that he subsequently located permanently in some other county.

Hopkins, the first prosecuting attorney, soon fell into disrepute and left the county. He was a native of Kentucky and had practiced law there before coming to Indiana. He left the Blue Grass state "under a cloud," and apparently did not mend his ways when he settled in the new state. He died in Illinois. He is said to have been a brilliant man and an excellent lawyer.

James T. Brown was the first Greensburg lawyer to attain prominence. He was quite eccentric, but possessed a very saving sense of humor. His jokes and anecdotes made him a very interesting character. After practicing in Decatur county for a good many years he located at Lawrenceburg, where he died soon after the war. Brown was a bachelor and lived to a ripe old age. It is said that he was retained in almost every case of importance that was tried during his residence in this county. He was without political ambitions and gave his whole heart to his practice.

Andrew Davison, third resident member of the bar, came from Pennsylvania and was admitted to practice in 1825. He was a learned, technical lawyer; and it is said that as a pleader, in the professional sense, his superior never appeared at the Decatur county bar. His efforts were brief and direct and delivered in a most forceful manner.

Chance played a large part in Davison's selection of Greensburg as a location. He was educated for the ministry, but after his graduation from Franklin College, Pennsylvania, he decided that he would study law. Upon being admitted to the Pennsylvania bar, he departed for a horseback trip through Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, seeking restoration of his health. While upon his return trip his jaded steed dropped, completely exhausted, at Greensburg. Finding a considerable colony of Presbyterians there he cast his lot with them and soon rose to eminence in his profession.

Davison was elected a member of the supreme court in 1852 and was re-elected in 1858. He was defeated for a third term in 1864 and never resumed active practice. The only other public office he ever held was the postmastership at Greensburg, given to him when Andrew Jackson made his famous shake-up in federal postoffices and established a precedent that was followed by all succeeding Presidents. In 1839 Davison married a daughter of Judge Test. His death occurred in 1871. He was in his day one of the foremost lawyers in the state; possessed a fine character in public and private life and left a large estate. He left one son, Joseph, who died a few years later.

OTHER EARLY FIGURES AT THE BAR.

Other attorneys who practiced in the Decatur county court in those early days were Oliver H. Smith, afterwards United States senator from Indiana, and John Test, who was admitted in 1830. This John Test was the second son of John Test, Sr., who represented this district in Congress from 1829 to 1835. Young Test died of tuberculosis in 1839 and his widow some time later married Judge Davison.

Martin Jamison, who had studied law under James Brown, was admitted to the bar in 1827. He served in the state Legislature in 1839 and died of lung trouble in 1841. In his short career he built up a very lucrative practice.

Following Jamison, Joseph Robison was the next to be admitted to the bar. He was not well versed in legal procedure, and his knowledge of the fundamentals of the law left something to be desired; but as an advocate he stood head and shoulders above the other lawyers of those early days. He was a candidate for Congress on the Whig ticket in 1851, but was defeated by John L. Robinson, the Democratic incumbent. The latter was the father of Joseph Robinson, of Anderson, who represented that district in the Legislature for a number of terms.

Before his admission to the bar, Robinson served as sheriff for two terms, during which time he read law. He had but little education, and when he was married was unable to read and write. He represented Decatur county several times in the state Legislature and was a delegate to the constitutional convention of 1850.

The next citizen of Decatur county to be admitted to the practice of law was John D. Haynes, a native of New York. He completed a previously begun course of study in the office of Judge Davison, and was admitted to the bar in 1839. He moved to Dearborn county in 1843 and was later elected judge of the court of common pleas of Dearborn and Ohio counties.

Philander Hamilton and Henry Spottswood Christian located in Greensburg next. Hamilton gave promise of a brilliant career, but died young and before he had attained the summit of his powers. Christian was a native of Virginia, and claimed relationship with some of the first colonial families of that state. The path of the young lawyer was no more strewn with roses in those days than it is at present, so he quit his office for a year to teach in the old seminary and then returned to practice, with better results. He later located at Versailles and died there, of tuberculosis, in 1859.

At the first session of the Decatur county court after the adoption of



the new Constitution, which convened on April 25, 1853, James Gavin, Daniel Patterson and Archibald McKee were admitted to the bar.

Lawyers from other counties, who have had cases in the local court, have frequently been admitted to practice upon motion, as a courtesy, and many names appear upon the records of men who have never practiced regularly in the local courts. In 1842 A. A. Hammond was thus admitted on motion. Mr. Hammond was later elected lieutenant-governor of the state.

Seven lawyers were admitted in 1844. They were Edward Sanders, S. E. Perkins, who later was elevated to the supreme bench; Squire W. Robinson, Samuel Seabaugh, Silas Overturf, J. S. Scobey and Hugh F. Fugit.

#### PROMINENT FIGURES AT THE BAR.

Col. John S. Scobey, one of the most famous members of the Decatur county bar, was born near Cincinnati in 1818, and was educated in the Franklin county schools. He was a student for two years at Miami University, quitting his collegiate studies to read law in the office of Governor Bebb at Hamilton. Later, intending to practice in Indiana, he left Hamilton and resumed his studies at Brookville, where he was admitted to the bar in 1844. He settled at Greensburg the same year.

Scobey was circuit prosecutor from 1847 to 1850, and in 1852 was elected state senator from this county. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Governor Morton, who was his classmate at Miami, telegraphed him to come to Indianapolis at once. As a result of the interview, Scobey returned to Decatur county and raised Company A, of the Sixty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Infantry. He performed valorous service throughout the war and his rise was rapid. He soon rose from captain to major and in 1863 became lieutenant-colonel of the Sixty-eighth Regiment. When Colonel King fell at Chickamauga, Scobey was assigned to command of the regiment.

Upon his return to civil life he engaged for a time in business affairs, before resuming the practice of law. He was three times a presidential elector. The first time was in 1852, on the Whig ticket; the second time, in 1872, on the Democratic ticket, and again in 1876 on the Democratic ticket.

Barton W. Wilson, who was the next to be admitted to the bar, was a graduate of Indiana University and located in Greensburg in 1848. He was a candidate for the state Senate in 1852, but was defeated by William J. Robinson. His defeat was largely due to his endorsement of the compromise measures of 1850. Wilson was a public-spirited man, willing and able at any time to help forward any enterprise which had for its aim the betterment

of his city. It is said that, throughout his active career, there was no public undertaking that did not draw largely upon his purse and personal services. The first fire engine owned by the city of Greensburg was named for him.

Not only was Barton W. Wilson a well-read elementary lawyer, but he kept well up with the rulings of the courts of his day and was most painstaking in preparation of his cases. He held many posts of honor in local affairs, for which he was indebted to political foes as well as to the members of his own party.

TOOK PART IN THE CIVIL WAR.

Col. James Gavin, another leader at the bar in that day, was a man of unusual ability. He had acquired an education, married and was practicing law before he had attained his majority. He taught school in Union county for a time and then moved to Greensburg, where he was admitted to the bar in 1853. In a short time he had built up a large practice. He was born in 1830 and died in 1873.

At the outbreak of the war, James Gavin was made adjutant of the Seventh Regiment and when it was reorganized, at the end of its three-months enlistment, he became its lieutenant-colonel. He was given command of this regiment in 1862 and served until the spring of 1863, at which time he resigned on account of a wound received during the second battle of Bull Run. In 1864 he was made colonel of one of the hundred-day regiments sent to Tennessee to relieve the veterans of Sherman's army.

Colonel Gavin was originally a Democrat, but was a candidate in 1862 for Congress on the Union ticket, being defeated by William S. Holman. After the war he was elected county clerk upon the Republican ticket. He resigned this office to accept an appointment as internal revenue collector, which had been proffered him by President Johnson. He did not secure this office, however, as the Senate refused to confirm the appointment; so he retired from official life and returned to the Democratic party.

One of Colonel Gavin's contemporaries was Oscar B. Hord, who later attained national recognition as a legal authority. Hord came from Kentucky, a member of a family of lawyers. He was a member of the bar at Maysville, Kentucky, until 1851, in which year he located in Greensburg. He was very young and rather diffident, but the time not needed by clients he devoted to study and so became one of the most thorough lawyers in Indiana. He associated himself with James Gavin and wrote "Gavin and Hord's Indiana Statutes," with full annotations, which was greatly appreciated by the profession in this state.

Hord was elected attorney-general in 1862 and moved to Indianapolis. After his term expired he went into the firm of Hendricks, Hord & Hendricks, of Indianapolis, one of the leading law firms of the state. He was one of the most highly trained members of the profession that the Decatur county bar has ever given to the state.

Charles F. Parrish and James Coverdill came to Greensburg from Ohio, in 1851, and established the firm of Coverdill & Parrish, which continued for two years, at the end of which time Parrish left the county and Coverdill joined with James Gavin in the formation of a new firm. Parrish won high honors during the Civil War and retired as colonel of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Coverdill made a poor soldier; quit the service and died in Cincinnati shortly after the war.

Gen. Ira G. Grover, Decatur county's most illustrious soldier, was born in Union county, Indiana, in 1832. His parents moved to Greensburg and he enjoyed the best educational advantages that could be obtained there, after which he was sent to Asbury Academy, now DePauw University, where he was graduated in 1856, with first honors. Grover taught school until 1860, in which year he was elected to the state Legislature, where he served during the regular session and through part of the special session called at the outbreak of the Civil War. Having been elected a lieutenant in Company B, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, he quit his seat in the Legislature and served through the war. On the return of the "three-months men," he organized a new company and was chosen its captain. He was with the Seventh in every fight in which it took part, until he was captured during the first day of the Battle of the Wilderness, in May, 1864.

General Grover was wounded three times during the war, at Ft. Republic, second Bull Run and in the Wilderness, during which latter engagement he was taken prisoner and placed in prison at Charlestown, where, with a number of other Union officers, he was placed under fire of their own batteries. After some time he was exchanged and after a short visit in Greensburg, returned to his regiment in time to be mustered out. At the close of the war he held the rank of colonel of the Seventh and was later, for his gallant services, breveted brigadier-general by President Lincoln.

Before the outbreak of the war General Grover had studied law and he resumed his studies upon his return to Greensburg. He was admitted to the bar in 1866, but on account of his political activities never engaged in the practice of the legal profession. He was the Republican nominee for Congress in 1866, but was defeated by William S. Holman. He was twice elected clerk of the Decatur county circuit court. Near the close of his second

term, he showed signs of a mental affliction, due to wounds received in the service; and was placed for care and treatment in a state institution. He died on May 30, 1873.

Judge Samuel A. Bonner, for twelve years judge of the eighth judicial circuit, was born on an Alabama plantation, in 1826. His father abhorred slavery and came to Greensburg to educate his children, out of reach of its baneful influence. He was educated at Richland Academy, Miami University and Center College, Danville, Kentucky, from which he was graduated in 1849. For a time he read law in the office of Andrew Davison and then entered the Indiana University law school. Upon his graduation, in 1852, Bonner was admitted to the Decatur county bar. He formed a partnership with Barton W. Wilson, which continued until he was elected to the Legislature, in 1854. Two years later he was elected judge of the common-pleas court of Rush and Decatur counties, serving for four years. When he retired from public life, in 1860, he formed a partnership with William Cumback, which lasted until Cumback retired from practice.

In 1877 Judge Bonner was called by election to the bench of the circuit court where he served for twelve years. He then became senior partner of the firm of Bonner, Tackett & Bennet, with which he remained until his death, on April 5, 1904.

#### ENTERED PUBLIC LIFE EARLY.

Cortez Ewing, elder brother of James K. Ewing, dean of the Decatur county bar, was born in 1837 and entered public life at the early age of thirteen; filling, at that tender stage of his career, the office of deputy clerk and recorder under Henry H. Talbott, prominent office holder of the early days. In 1857 Cortez Ewing was given a position in the general land office at Washington, D. C., under Thomas A. Hendricks, who was then commissioner of the general land office. Ewing was admitted to the bar in 1858, and began the practice of law in 1860. For the next two years he was in the office of Gavin & Hord, and assisted Hord in his work of revision of the laws of Indiana. He became a partner of Hord, but later entered practice alone. He served, from 1874 to 1878, as trustee of the state institute for the education of the blind. Later in life he quit the law to become cashier of the Third National Bank of Greensburg. Much of the early success of this institution is due to the respect in which Mr. Ewing was held throughout the county. He died in 1887.

Judge John D. Miller, who also served upon the bench of the eighth



judicial circuit, was born near Clarksburg, this county, in 1840, and thus was one of the first native-born attorneys to achieve eminence in the legal profession. He entered Hanover College in 1859, but in 1861 left college and enlisted in Company G, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served as a private throughout the Civil War. Upon the close of the war, he studied law with Overstreet & Hunter, at Franklin, and was admitted to the bar in 1866, after which he moved to Greensburg. In 1872 he was elected to the Legislature from Decatur and Rush counties. Prior to his election to the Legislature, he had served Greensburg as city clerk and city attorney. From 1868 until 1873 he was the law partner of Colonel Gavin. In 1891 Judge Miller, was appointed to the supreme bench of the state to fill a vacancy and served until 1893. He was the Republican candidate for the same high office in 1892, but was defeated. He then resumed the practice of law and in 1894 was elected circuit judge. He died on March 20, 1898.

#### ELEVATED TO APPELLATE BENCH.

Frank E. Gavin, of the firm of Gavin, Gavin & Davis, of Indianapolis, is the son of James Gavin and was for many years a leading member of the Decatur county bar. He was born on February 20, 1854, and entered Harvard College, graduating from that institution with the class of 1873. He studied law with Judge John D. Miller and was admitted to the bar on February 19, 1875, the day before he attained his majority. He served for several years as county attorney and in 1892 was elected judge of the appellate court for the second district. Upon leaving the bench, Judge Gavin formed business associations in Indianapolis and has since continued the practice of law in that city. He was married in 1876 to Ella B. Lathrop, daughter of James B. Lathrop. He is a prominent Mason and was at one time grand master of that order in Indiana.

John L. Bracken, who served one term as prosecuting attorney of Decatur county, was admitted to the bar in 1871. For a number of years he was associated with M. D. Tackett, in the firm of Bracken & Tackett. In 1878 he was elected circuit prosecutor and served one term. He quit the law some time after and engaged in the monument business at Richmond, Indiana, later accepting appointment as deputy revenue collector under his brother, William H. Bracken, of Brookville. A widow and one son survive him.

Marine D. Tackett was born on a Decatur county farm, three and one-half miles from Greensburg, October 26, 1841, and moved to Greensburg

with his parents, at the age of ten. After completing his education in the city schools he learned the trade of cabinet maker, which he followed until the beginning of the Civil War, when he enlisted in the Third Indiana Artillery. He saw service with Fremont and Sherman and was mustered out with three years of honorable service to his credit. He lost an arm by the premature discharge of a cannon, while celebrating the election of Governor Morton.

Tackett was admitted to the bar in 1874 and three years later was appointed city attorney of Greensburg, serving in that office until 1881, in which year he was appointed prosecuting attorney of the eighth judicial district by Governor Morton, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Richard Durnan, who had succeeded John L. Bracken. He then held the office for four years more by election. He was a member of the state central committee of the Republican party for four years and a delegate to the national convention in Chicago, in 1888; in which year he declined the Republican nomination for Congress. He was chief allotting agent of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians in 1891. In 1892 he was elected clerk of the Decatur circuit court and was a candidate for re-election in 1896. Before he became prosecutor he was a member of the firm of Bonner, Tackett & Bennett, also had served for a time as postmaster at Greensburg. At the time of his death he was associated with Davison Wilson, under the firm name of Tackett & Wilson.

William H. Goddard, who during his time, was Decatur county's leading pension attorney, was born in Clinton township on February 22, 1837. He taught school until 1861, when he was appointed to a clerical position in the department of the interior. Later he was transferred to the treasury department, where he remained until his return to Greensburg, in 1876. While at the national capital he studied law at the Georgetown Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1872. At the request of James G. Blaine, he was appointed, in 1881, assistant superintendent of the railway mail service, with headquarters at St. Louis.

Goddard's legal practice consisted almost entirely of the settlement of pension claims; and, on account of his knowledge of such matters and his personal acquaintance with the business of the pension bureau, he was remarkably successful. During the last ten years of his life he was associated in practice with his son, John F. Goddard. He died on June 21, 1901.

John F. Goddard was born on October 22, 1858, in Clay township, this county, and was graduated from Indiana University in 1880. He was admitted to the bar in 1891, but did not commence active practice until 1896.

In 1905 he formed a law partnership with John W. Craig, and the firm of Goddard & Craig is the oldest law firm in Greensburg. John W. Craig was born in Greensburg in 1880, and was graduated from the Indiana Law School before attaining his majority. He served as deputy prosecutor before he was twenty-one; had a murder indictment returned, but being too young to be admitted to the bar, was compelled to secure another attorney to handle the case when it came to trial.

Judge W. A. Moore was born on a farm in Franklin county, August 16, 1838. When he had completed his preparatory education he entered the office of Judge Bonner and read law there. He was admitted to practice in 1866. The same year he was elected to the state Legislature, where he served one term. In 1870 he was elected common-pleas judge of the twenty-second judicial district and filled the office until it was abolished by act of the Legislature.

In 1876 Judge Moore was elected to the state Senate upon the Republican ticket and served two terms. He then returned to private practice, continuing the same until his death.

Davison Wilson, a former prominent member of the Decatur county bar, was born in Greensburg, and was educated in the schools of that city and at Indiana University. He studied law for a time in the office of W. B. Wilson and was admitted to the bar on September 6, 1881. He formed his first legal partnership with Judge David A. Myers, and some time later established his office with Cortez Ewing; then with M. D. Tackett. Later he engaged in the practice of his profession alone. Wilson was a man of small stature, but a most excellent lawyer. His education gave him a strong foundation for general practice. His speeches were models of brevity and conciseness and his diction was both pure and elegant. For many years he was the one of the leading representatives of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad Company. He never married. He died in 1911.

#### GREENSBURG'S FOREMOST CITIZEN.

William Cumback, who, during his long career of public usefulness, was Greensburg's foremost and most distinguished citizen, was admitted to the Decatur county bar in 1853, after a short preparatory course at the Cincinnati Law School. Save during the periods when he was in the service of the government in many a case before the Decatur county bar during more than forty years he appeared upon one side or the other.

Congressman at twenty-five, defeating the seasoned politician, William

S. Holman, "the watchdog of the treasury," and on terms of intimate relationship with the nation's great in the critical period during the sessions of the thirty-fourth Congress, young Cumback was a character that attracted national attention.

Defeated for re-election in 1856 by an influx of foreign voters, he again came into prominence in 1860, when he cast the electoral vote of Indiana for Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States. At the first call to arms he joined the colors as a private in the Thirteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, rising to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He later was appointed paymaster in the army and disbursed more than sixty million dollars without the loss of a penny. He was elected state senator in 1866, became president of the Senate in 1867 and lieutenant-governor in 1868.

In 1871 Governor Cumback declined the proffered appointment as minister to Portugal and in that year was made collector of internal revenue for his district, serving for twelve years. Until his death, in August, 1905, he spent much of his time on the lecture platform, being a very popular and entertaining speaker. Governor Cumback was an earnest member of the Methodist church and his voice for years was one of the most influential in the great councils of American Methodism.

Christopher Shane, a prominent member of the Decatur county bar many years ago, was born in Shelby county on August 11, 1833. He first practiced law in 1865 with Judge William A. Moore. For four years before he was admitted to the bar he was a clerk in the pension bureau at Washington, D. C. Beginning in 1867, he served six years as mayor of Greensburg and was later city and county attorney. Some years after he went into the insurance business in Washington and died in that state.

Douglas Watts, stepson of Colonel Scobey, was born in Cincinnati on August 27, 1858, and in 1877 moved to Greensburg, where he was employed as clerk by an uncle. He was admitted to the bar in 1880 and died a few years after in the West, whither he had gone for his health.

#### DEAN OF THE DECATUR COUNTY BAR.

Judge James K. Ewing, dean of the Decatur county bar, son of Patrick Ewing, one of the pioneer settlers of Clay township and father of several distinguished sons, was born in Decatur county on November 23, 1843. He studied law with his brother, Cortez Ewing, and later formed a partnership with the latter, which lasted until 1883, when the elder Ewing retired to



become a banker. James K. Ewing then formed a partnership with his nephew, Cortez Ewing, Jr., which lasted until 1893. In that year, through the death of Judge John W. Study, Mr. Ewing was appointed to the bench of the eighth judicial circuit, serving in that capacity until 1895, when he retired to private practice, first in partnership with John D. Wallingford, then with G. L. Tremain, then with Frank Hamilton and now with Fred F. Smith. Mr. Ewing was a delegate to the Democratic national convention in 1888 and made races for the local circuit judgeship in 1888 and 1896, but was both times defeated. He was then associated for a time with another nephew. Judge Ewing has a well-earned reputation as a lawyer and is held in the utmost esteem and respect; not only by members of the Decatur county bar, but by his many clients, with whom his dealings have always been most careful and just.

#### SURMOUNTED GREAT HANDICAP.

John Quincy Donnell, although not engaged in the practice of law, is a member of the Decatur county bar. He was educated at the Indiana state school for the blind and at Oberlin College. In 1878 he was elected to the Indiana Legislature and served one term. For a time he was a member of the firm of Boothe & Donnell and later edited the *Greensburg Review* and a paper at Anderson, Indiana. Although totally blind, Mr. Donnell has marvellous ability in a number of fields and is reputed to be one of the ablest chess players in this part of the state.

B. F. Bennett, who removed, in 1914, to California, was born on March 31, 1854, in this county and was admitted to the bar in 1878. He served four terms as county attorney, was a member of the Greensburg school board and active in all movements for the good of the community. He was first associated with Judge Moore and upon his partner's death became a member of the firm of Bonner, Tackett & Bennett. When that firm was broken up, he formed a partnership with Thomas E. Davidson, under the firm name of Bennett & Davidson.

Samuel B. Edward was born on November 29, 1852, in Washington township, studied at the Indianapolis Commercial College and was graduated in 1871. He studied two years at Butler College and then read law in the office of Bonner & Bracken. He was admitted to the bar in 1875. In 1883 he was elected mayor of Greensburg. When he retired from office he practiced law again for a time and then turned his attention to a stone quarry at Harris, this county. In 1910 he represented Decatur county in the state Leg-

islature. His death occurred in the spring of 1815. He is survived by one son, Louis, who lives at Harris.

Barton Porter, brother of Alexander Porter, practiced law in Greensburg one year before his death, in 1903. He was a graduate of Indiana University, completing his legal education at that institution in 1902. Upon leaving college he formed a partnership with George L. Tremain. He was a promising young attorney and would doubtless have risen high in his chosen profession, but for his untimely death.

John L. Davis, who was elected prosecuting attorney in 1898, came to Decatur county from Rising Sun, Indiana, and formed a partnership with Judge Moore. His father was Rodney L. Davis, one of the leading attorneys of Ohio county. Davis died in 1901.

Thomas L. Creath, another outside lawyer, who became prosecutor, was born in Batesville, Indiana. He was elected to this office in 1900 and served one term. When his term expired he formed a partnership with John Parker, which lasted until he moved to Versailles in 1904. His death occurred in 1914.

Elmer Roland, who served as prosecutor of the ninth judicial circuit from 1896 to 1898, was born in Columbus, Indiana, but came to Decatur county at an early age. Upon being admitted to the bar he commenced the practice of law in partnership with John Osborn. Roland married a daughter of Brutus Hamilton and now resides in Mississippi.

George L. Tremain, of the firm of Tremain & Turner, was born in Bartholomew county, April 6, 1877, was graduated from Central Normal College, Danville, Indiana, in 1900, and was admitted to the bar the same year. He first practiced with Barton Porter, then with Judge Ewing until 1906, and then with Charles Ewing until 1908, since which time he has been associated in practice with Rolin A. Turner.

Oscar G. Miller, of the firm of Miller & Ryan, was born in Rush county, and came to Greensburg in 1882. For three years he taught school and studied law at the same time, being admitted to the bar in 1888. He then took the liberal arts course at DePauw University and was graduated in 1891. He was for a time associated with Judge Moore. Charles L. Ryan, the junior partner of this firm, is engaged in the insurance business. He was born in Decatur county in 1884 and was admitted to the bar in 1910.

Two Decatur county lawyers, who held the office of prosecuting attorney and later moved to other locations and have almost been forgotten, were Platt Wicks and Creighton Dandy. Wicks was prosecuting attorney before the Civil War and after quitting the public service, moved to Harlan, Iowa,

where he accumulated a fortune. He has been dead for a number of years. Creighton Dandy was prosecutor from 1875 to 1880. When he lived in Greensburg he owned the property where the Espy house now is. He went from Greensburg to Lawrenceburg, where he built up a profitable practice. He also is dead.

John H. Parker, who does a general abstracting business, was born in Rush county, January 26, 1866, and was admitted to the bar in 1892. He first formed a partnership with Myron C. Jenkins and later with T. L. Creath. Since the death of Creath he has been practicing alone.

A. H. Fisher, father of Carl Fisher, president of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Company, at one time practiced law in Greensburg, but moved to Indianapolis when Carl was about twelve years old. The elder Fisher was born in Ross county, Ohio, in 1847, and was admitted to the Morgan county bar in 1871. He was at one time deputy prosecutor of Decatur county. Fisher was of a rather belligerent disposition, and besides whipping the town marshal at one time, occasionally made things warm for other members of the bar. He once clashed with Judge Ewing, and the two were at swords' points for more than a year. Later, matters were amicably adjusted.

Roy E. Glidewell, a younger member of the Decatur county bar, was born on a farm, six miles east of Greensburg, on November 26, 1891. He was educated in the common schools and later studied law, being admitted to practice in 1914. He has his office with Judge Ewing.

Judge Hugh D. Wickens was born, August 30, 1870, on a farm near North Vernon, Indiana. He obtained a common and high school education in the North Vernon schools and afterward taught school in Jennings county, Indiana, in Tennessee, and at Vincennes, Indiana. He was graduated from the Indiana Law School of Indianapolis, May 29, 1895, and came to Greensburg, July 1, 1895, and was soon afterward admitted to the Decatur county bar. He practiced law by himself until November 1, 1897, when he formed a partnership with John Osborn, continuing in the firm of Wickens & Osborn until he was elected judge of the ninth judicial circuit of Indiana in 1910. He served as county attorney during 1900 and 1901. He is a Democrat and a member of the Elks lodge.

Myron C. Jenkins was admitted to the bar of the Decatur circuit court before Judge Samuel A. Bonner in 1886. Beginning in that year, he was in partnership with John H. Parker for some time. He was elected clerk of Decatur county in 1904 and re-elected in 1908, serving eight years in that office. Upon closing his last term of office, he resumed the practice of law. He has sat as special judge at numerous times in the Decatur circuit court.

George Bruce served a short while as deputy prosecuting attorney in the time when William V. O'Donnell, now of St. Louis, was prosecuting attorney of the ninth judicial circuit in 1909 and 1910. In 1911 and 1912 Horace C. Skillman was deputy prosecuting attorney for Decatur county during the term of Ralph Spaugh. Mr. Skillman removed to Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1913.

F. Gates Ketchum was admitted to the bar in 1909. He has been in the practice of the law since March, 1913, having offices in the Citizens Bank building. Since his appearance at the bar he has been of counsel for one side or the other in several important cases.

David A. Myers, of the Decatur county bar, was elected to the appellate court of Indiana for two terms. He was admitted to the bar at Greensburg before Judge Bonner, in September, 1881. In 1890 he was elected prosecuting attorney of the eighth judicial circuit of Indiana, then embracing Rush and Decatur counties, and was re-elected to that office in 1892. In 1899 he succeeded Judge John D. Miller on the bench for Rush and Decatur counties, serving as circuit judge from March, 1899, until January of the ensuing year. Judge Myers was elected to the appellate court in 1904, and re-elected in 1908, serving as appellate judge until January 1, 1913. Since that date he has been engaged in active practice at Greensburg.

Rollin A. Turner, in the same year that he graduated from college, entered into the law partnership of Tremain & Turner. He is a graduate of the college of law of Harvard University in the class of 1907. In that year he came to Greensburg and has continuously since been in active practice with G. L. Tremain. Mr. Turner was the Republican candidate for Congress in the fourth congressional district of Indiana in the campaign of 1912.

After having served as deputy auditor of Decatur county, John E. Osborn was admitted to the bar in 1897. He formed a partnership at once with Elmer E. Roland, who was then prosecuting attorney. He continued in partnership with Mr. Roland until November, 1897, at which time Wickens & Osborn formed a partnership, which continued until Mr. Wickens was elected to the bench in 1910. In December, 1910, Mr. Osborn and Lewis A. Harding formed a partnership. Frank Hamilton became a member of the firm on January 1, 1912, and Mr. Harding entered the office of prosecuting attorney at the commencement of 1913. Mr. Osborn served as Democratic chairman of the sixth congressional district of Indiana.

Frank Hamilton, before he began the study of law, attended Butler College in 1900 and 1901. He was a student in the law school of Indiana University from 1901 to 1904. He entered the Indiana Law School of



Indianapolis in 1905 and was graduated from that school in the same year. He then continued the study of law further, after his graduation, in the law office of Tackett & Wilson in Greensburg. He was admitted to the bar in December, 1905. He practiced in partnership with James K. Ewing during the period of 1906 to 1912, and in 1912 joined in partnership with Osborn & Harding. Mr. Hamilton was deputy prosecuting attorney from 1907 to 1909. He was county attorney during the year 1912.

Lewis A. Harding is a son of James L. Harding, of Newpoint. He obtained his elementary education in his home schools and at Greensburg. He taught school four years in Decatur county and at Alexandria, and afterward was graduated in law from the Indiana State University in 1909. He then spent a year and a half in the west, serving as head of the department of English of the Wichita, Kansas, high school from 1909 to 1911. Upon the election of Judge Wickens to the bench in 1910, Mr. Harding joined in partnership with John E. Osborn. Frank Hamilton later joined the firm of Osborn & Harding, January 1, 1912. Mr. Harding was elected prosecuting attorney of the ninth judicial circuit of Indiana in 1912 for the years 1913 and 1914, and was re-elected in 1914. In addition to his other writings, he is the author of a work on international law, entitled "The Preliminary Diplomacy of the Spanish-American War."

Thomas E. Davidson was graduated in law from DePauw University in 1887. Prior to that time he had read law in the office of Col. Simeon Stansifer at Columbus. He was admitted to the bar in Columbus in 1891, where he served as deputy in the county clerk's office three years. Mr. Davidson came to Greensburg in the autumn of 1895 and practiced law in partnership with Benjamin F. Bennett from February, 1896, until October, 1914, when Mr. Bennett removed to California. Mr. Davidson was elected president of the State Bar Association of Indiana in July, 1914. At the annual meeting of the State Bar Association in Indianapolis in July, 1915, as president of the association, he delivered an address on "Respect for the Law," which has attracted wide attention in the state.

Earl Hite attended Butler College in 1900 and 1901, after which he went to Indiana University, where he was graduated from the school of law in 1905. He was admitted to the bar in 1904 and served as deputy prosecuting attorney for a time in 1909 and 1910. He has been city attorney of the city of Greensburg since 1910.

William F. Robbins was admitted to the bar of the Decatur circuit court in June, 1913, at which time he was appointed deputy prosecuting attor-

ney for Decatur county by Prosecutor Harding. When Mr. Harding was re-elected in 1914 he again appointed Mr. Robbins as deputy.

Cortez Ewing, Jr., was born in Clay township on September 14, 1862, and moved to Greensburg in 1875. He studied law with his uncles, Cortez and James K. Ewing, and was admitted to the Decatur county bar "ex gracia" while in his teens in 1883. He was a son of Abel Ewing and was one of the most brilliant and, at the same time, when he dealt with a contrary witness or attorney, one of the most adroit young lawyers that ever practiced at the Decatur county bar. These qualities, coupled with his impressive personality, his legal acumen and ready wit, made him advance rapidly as a lawyer. His first practice was in partnership with his uncle, James K. Ewing, which continued until 1893. He later formed a partnership with Davisson Wilson in 1895, which continued until his unfortunate death in 1902. In 1889 he was elected state senator for Decatur and Shelby counties. He married Mary Matthews, daughter of former Governor Claude Matthews, June 18, 1890. He was the author of the World's Fair bill that became a law in 1891. He was appointed a member of the world's law commission by former Governor Hovey.

The junior member of the Decatur county bar is Fred F. Smith, from Bloomington, Indiana. He was admitted to the bar before Judge Wickens, July 10, 1915. He was graduated from the Indiana University Law School in 1915.

## CHAPTER X.

### BANKS AND BANKING.

The Citizens Bank of Greensburg, a private institution, was established on March 1, 1866, by David Lovett, Levi P. Lathrop and Samuel Christy. As a private bank it did a good business and enjoyed the confidence of the public from the very beginning. In November, 1871, it was reorganized under the national bank law and took out a charter as a national bank, under the name of the Citizens National Bank, with a paid-in capital of \$100,000.

The first officers of the Citizens National Bank of Greensburg were, David Lovett, president; Levi P. Lathrop, vice-president; Samuel Christy, cashier, and D. W. Lovett, teller. Affairs of the institution have been handled in a careful and business-like manner, from the start, by its efficient officers and directors, and its deposits have shown a steady and normal growth.

Besides paying its regular dividends, the Citizens National Bank has accumulated a surplus fund of \$45,000 and has undivided profits amounting to \$7,644.52. The institution does a general banking business of discount and deposit and buys and sells United States bonds and other high-class securities. According to its latest statement, this bank's deposits amount to \$265,000.

The Citizens National Bank is the oldest existing institution in the county, and is in many respects a financial landmark. Some of the foremost citizens of Decatur county are numbered among its officers and directors, adding to its prestige of seniority the powerful asset of safe and conservative administration.

The present officers of the bank are: James B. Lathrop, president; S. P. Minear, vice-president; C. W. Woodard, cashier, and G. G. Welsh, assistant cashier. Its board of directors consists of James B. Lathrop, S. P. Minear, John H. Christian, C. W. Woodward, John W. Lovett, Louis E. Lathrop and Frank D. Bird.

## THE THIRD NATIONAL BANK.

Among the highly successful business institutions of Decatur county, the Third National Bank of Greensburg occupies a leading place. Through the rare business discernment of its officials together with their willingness to extend accommodations in every possible manner the institution has enjoyed a rapid growth and is now recognized as one of the most sturdy and substantial financial institutions of the county.

The bank was organized on December 4, 1882, by John E. Robbins, Samuel A. Bonner, Thomas M. Hamilton, Abraham Reiter, E. B. Swem, M. L. Miers, Charles Zoller, Seth Donnell, William Kennedy, E. F. Dyer, James DeArmond, James Hart, Walter W. Bonner and Louis Zoller. The first officers were John E. Robbins, president; Thomas Hamilton, vice-president; Cortez Ewing, cashier, and Walter Bonner, bookkeeper. The original directorate was made up of the following: J. E. Robbins, Morgan L. Miers, James Hart, A. Reiter, E. B. Swem and Charles Zoller. The bank was capitalized for \$50,000.

Cortez Ewing, who had taken an active part in the organization of the institution, served as cashier until his death, four years later; and later successes of the enterprise are largely due to its auspicious beginning under his active direction. Ewing had practiced law, but quit the bar to organize this bank. He is remembered by older citizens as a man of unusual frankness and candor, who despised sham and hated hypocrisy; who loved equity and was at all times an open and fair-minded citizen.

Walter W. Bonner, who swept out the bank on the day it was opened and has been identified with it ever since, succeeded Ewing at the cashier's window. Two years after its organization the business of the bank had so increased that \$25,000 was added to its capital stock. This date, December 16, 1884, marks the real beginning of the growth of the institution—a growth as healthy as it has been unusual.

For years the bank had been paying annual dividends of twenty per cent., but, in spite of the payment of such large returns, on July 8, 1898, the institution had piled up a surplus of \$100,000 and had undivided profits amounting to \$24,000. On this date a stock dividend of \$75,000 was declared, and \$75,000 worth of additional stock was sold, which brought the capitalization of the bank to its present figure, \$150,000.

Total resources of this institution, according to its latest statement, amount to \$760,282.99. Its loans amount to \$527,654.05 and its deposits to more than \$461,000.



Present officers of the bank are: Morgan L. Miers, president; Louis Zoller, vice-president; Walter Bonner, cashier, and George W. Adams, assistant cashier. The teller is Charles J. Dowden, and Cora C. Self. W. E. Koenigkramer and Ernest T. Erdmann are bookkeepers.

Since its organization the Third National Bank has always enjoyed the careful attention of an active board of directors. With the exception of Mr. Miers, all members of the first board are dead. Following are members of the present directorate: Charles Zoller, Frank R. Robbins, Morgan L. Miers, Louis Zoller, John T. Meek, George P. Shoemaker and Walter W. Bonner.

Character, as well as the financial responsibility of borrowers, has always been considered by this institution in credit extensions, and as a result of judicious assistance rendered by this bank at proper times a large number of highly successful Decatur county business organizations owe their present financial rating.

#### GREENSBURG NATIONAL BANK.

Although the youngest national bank in Greensburg, the Greensburg National Bank now ranks second in deposits and is growing at a rate that would indicate its assumption of a more commanding position at no distant date. The institution was organized under the national banking law on June 18, 1900, by the following stockholders: Webb Woodfill, Benjamin F. McCoy, J. M. Covert, Harry T. Woodfill, Charles P. Miller, Robert B. Whiteman, Isaac Sefton, George B. Davis, Nelson Mowrey, Cal. Crew, Marshall Grover, John M. Bright, Oliver Deem, Joseph B. Kitchin, James M. Woodfill, Will H. Robins, Will C. Pulse, Elizabeth A. Hamilton, John W. Deem, David A. Myers, Max Dalmbert, Blanche McLaughlin and Mary McLaughlin.

The bank's original capital stock was \$50,000, but in 1906 its business had increased to such an extent that the capitalization was raised to \$75,000. First officers of the institution were James M. Woodfill, president; Will H. Robbins, vice-president; Joseph B. Kitchin, cashier, and Dan S. Perry, assistant cashier.

Deposits of the Greensburg National Bank, according to its latest financial statement, were \$310,938.49 and its surplus and undivided profits amounted to \$31,399.43. The present officers of the bank are James M. Woodfill, president; Will H. Robbins, vice-president; Dan S. Perry, cashier, and Robert Woodfill, assistant cashier, succeeding A. J. Lowe.

WESTPORT NATIONAL BANK.

The First National Bank of Westport was incorporated on June 16, 1908, under the federal bank law by John S. Morris, F. D. Armstrong, J. F. Hamilton, E. G. Davis and Dr. O. F. Welch. The first officers were: F. D. Armstrong, president; J. F. Hamilton, vice-president; John S. Morris, cashier, and M. E. Baker, assistant cashier. M. E. Tyner is the present assistant cashier, the other officials remaining unchanged.

Incorporators of the bank capitalized it at \$30,000. Its deposits amount to \$150,000 and its surplus to more than \$10,000. The bank is doing a flourishing business and filling a long-felt want in the vicinity of Westport.

CLARKSBURG STATE BANK.

The Clarksburg State Bank, one of the youngest financial institutions of the county was organized in October, 1904, by W. G. Gemmill, Everett Hamilton, C. V. Spencer, J. N. Moore, C. M. Beall, S. McCay, E. S. Fee, Leroy Dobyns and W. J. Kincaid. The bank's capital stock was fixed at \$25,000. Its first officers were Everett Hamilton, president; W. J. Kincaid, vice-president; W. J. Gemmill, cashier. Since its organization, it has paid fair dividends, laid by a surplus of \$16,000 and its deposits have mounted to \$96,000. The institution owns the building it occupies. Its present officers are: Charles V. Spencer, president; W. J. Kincaid, vice-president, and A. T. Brock, cashier.

ALERT STATE BANK.

The youngest bank of the county is the State Bank of Alert, which came into being on November 13, 1914. Though still too young to have a surplus, its deposits have reached the tidy sum of \$35,000, and the outlook for the institution is most encouraging. Incorporators of the bank were: John W. Spears, Thomas J. Norton, John H. Deniston, George A. Beesley, James D. Anderson, Samuel Kelly and James W. Casson. John W. Spears is president of the institution; Thomas J. Norton, vice-president, and Claud F. Tyner, cashier. This bank owns the building it occupies.

THE ST. PAUL BANK.

The bank at St. Paul was organized under the Indiana banking laws on December 10, 1904, by Orlando Hungerford and Walter Hungerford.

The concern is capitalized at \$10,000 and does a general banking business. According to its latest statement its deposits exceed \$100,000 and its undivided profits are more than \$1,000. The bank occupies its own building. Orlando Hungerford is president of the institution; Walter Hungerford, cashier, and Dora Hungerford, assistant cashier.

#### NEWPOINT STATE BANK.

Organization of the bank at Newpoint was effected on October 22, 1906, when it was incorporated with a capitalization of \$25,000 and a building, costing \$3,500, was purchased. The first officers were J. J. Puttman, president; John Hoff, vice-president, and E. H. Spellman, cashier. The deposits of the institution exceed \$100,000 and it has a surplus of \$3,500. Its present officers are: John Hoff, president; John A. Meyer, vice-president, and George A. Redelman, cashier.

#### BURNEY STATE BANK.

Recognizing the need of some sort of financial institution to care for the needs of farmers, business men and others in that part of Clay township, William Smiley and six other progressive citizens of the township incorporated the Burney State Bank on December 22, 1913. Its original capital was \$25,000. Since its incorporation the bank has increased its deposits to \$80,000 and a surplus amounting to \$200 has been laid aside. The first officers, who are still serving, are William G. Smiley, president; John W. Corya, vice-president, and Huber C. Moore, cashier. These officers, John G. Gartin, W. F. McCullough, A. E. Howe, L. P. V. Williams and others, were incorporators of the institution.

#### GREENSBURG BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION.

The Greensburg Building and Loan Association, organized for the encouragement of money-saving and home-building, in March, 1896, now has more than five hundred members and occupies a very important position in the improvement of the municipality. Stock of the institution, subscribed and in force, amounts to \$416,700. The par value of each share, when matured, is \$100.

Interest at the rate of six and one-half per cent. is charged borrowers, and the annual dividend of the association has never been less than six

per cent. The plan of the institution is permanent. Dividends are paid semi-annually, in January and July. According to the latest statement of the association, deposits amount to \$182,624.34, and there is a surplus of \$5,117.22.

The original capitalization of the association was \$100,000, but this has since been increased to \$500,000. The incorporators were: John F. Childs, H. J. Hamon, Frank E. Gavin, Walter W. Bonner, P. T. Lambert and Charles Zoller, Jr. Upon organization, Mr. Childs was made president, Mr. Gavin, vice-president; Mr. Zoller, secretary; Mr. Bonner, treasurer, and P. T. Lambert, solicitor. These officers, with T. H. Stevenson and George P. Shoemaker, comprised the original board of directors.

Present officials of the association are: W. C. Woodfill, president; George P. Shoemaker, vice-president; Charles Zoller, secretary; Walter W. Bonner, treasurer, and P. T. Lambert, solicitor. Other members of the present board of directors are Robert Naegel and Louis Zoller.

#### THE UNION TRUST COMPANY.

The Union Trust Company of Greensburg, although one of the youngest, ranks second in amount of deposits among the financial institutions of the county. It secured its charter on October 25, 1905, and opened for business on the north side of the public square on January 30, of the following year.

Its first officers and directors were as follow: John Christian, president; Walter W. Bonner, vice-president; Harrington Boyd, secretary-treasurer, James Lathrop, Charles Zoller, Frank R. Robbins, James M. Woodfill, William H. Robbins and Daniel S. Perry. Other incorporators were: John W. Lovett, Sherman Minear, John H. Christian, Charles W. Woodward, John W. Spears, John H. Brown, D. Silberberg, W. Bracken, John H. Picker, Louis E. Lathrop, D. W. Hazelrigg, Morgan L. Miers, Louis Willey, Louis Zoller, George E. Erdman, C. J. Erdman, Abbie A. Bonner, Lizzie A. Hamilton, Walter W. Bonner, Isaac Sefton, Calvin Crews, John H. Deniston, J. M. Bright, Max Dalmbert, Oliver Deem, Hart & Woodfill, David A. Myers, Della McLaughlin, J. M. Covert, B. F. McCoy, Martin Hill, Mary McLaughlin and Blanche McLaughlin.

The original capitalization of the company was \$45,000, which has never been increased. Its total deposits, according to its latest statement, were \$374,547.62, and its surplus was \$33,750. The original stockholders were almost without exception owners of stock in other Greensburg banks, who saw the need of a trust company in the city and preferred to organize



it themselves, rather than permit outsiders to do so. Like other organizations of this kind the company serves as guardian, trustee and administrator; but is not a depository for public funds. It specializes in farm mortgages, its latest statement showing more than \$260,000, loaned upon this kind of real estate.

Present officers of the institution are: John H. Christian, president; Louis Zoller, vice-president, and Harrington Boyd, secretary-treasurer.

#### WORKINGMEN'S BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION.

The Workingmen's Building and Loan Association, the oldest institution of this character in Decatur county, was founded in April, 1883, by the following: I. F. Warriner, president; C. W. Harvey, vice-president; F. P. Monfort, secretary; James E. Mendenhall, solicitor; O. P. Schriver, Tom Brown, Robert Naegel, D. C. Elder, John B. Montgomery, Adam Stegmaier and F. E. Gavin. Warriner, Harvey, Brown, Elder, Montgomery and Stegmaier have since died.

Founded for the purpose of assisting laboring men, and those working for small salaries, to secure comfortable homes for themselves, the association has been a strong factor in the development of Greensburg. More than three hundred homes, most of them on the west side of the city, have been erected with money borrowed of this institution.

The organization is capitalized at a half million dollars and more than \$200,000 in stock already has been taken by depositors, looking forward to the time when they should be able to build their own homes. The association has more than two hundred depositors and half as many borrowers.

Present officers and directors of the association are: A. C. Rupp, president; C. P. Corbett, vice-president; David A. Myers, secretary, J. B. Kitchin, Web Woodfill, Daniel S. Perry, H. L. Wittenberg, Edward Dille, August Goyert, Eugene Rankin and Charles S. Williams.

#### ST. PAUL BUILDING ASSOCIATION.

The St. Paul Building Association was incorporated on February 13, 1886, and was capitalized for \$50,000. It now has ninety-one investing members and fifty-three borrowing members. The amount of capital stock now subscribed and in force is \$76,100. Par value of shares is \$100. Borrowers are charged six and one-half per cent. interest, but no premium is

exacted. The annual dividend declared in 1914 was six per cent. Total receipts for 1914, from all sources, according to the annual report, were \$33,-908.02. Assets, in cash and loans; amounted to the same.

Present officers of the association are: C. F. Kappes, president; George W. Boling, secretary; Jacob Johannes, treasurer, and Harry Ballard, attorney. The original incorporators were: J. J. Theobold, Julius Theobold, William Favors, Sarah E. Ellsberry, Abner Buell, J. H. Mason, Delmon L. Lee, George N. Vanostram, John Palmerton, James Ellsberry, Pat McAulliffe, Peter Johannes, Charles Barner, William L. Ford, Lewis Hinkle, John Evans, Jacob Johannes, William Favors, Jr., Michael Marren, John W. Jenkins, George Pittman, Maurice Doolan, John Cole, E. L. Floyd, Jonah Phillips, Mort Templeton, Jeremiah Evans, John B. Holmes, J. L. Scanlan, D. W. Avery, J. E. Stevens, Otto Lindner, J. M. Shortridge, Jacob Favors, C. H. Latham, John C. Scanlan, Elias Franks and Calvin Jolly.

#### DECATUR COUNTY'S ONLY BANK FAILURE.

Not one dollar has ever been lost by depositors through failure of a Decatur county bank. But one institution has ever closed its doors through failure; and in this instance, stockholders paid off the obligations of the institution within fifteen days. This bank closed its doors on September 2, 1897, and the money was ready with which to pay depositors in full on September 17; the speediest liquidation ever known, according to the declarations of Federal banking authorities at the time.

The bank in question was the First National Bank, which was organized as a private institution in 1857, under the name of the Greensburg Bank. In December, 1863, it was reorganized as a national bank with Antrim R. Forsythe as president. The capital stock was \$50,000. This was later increased to \$100,000, and then to \$150,000.

Upon the death of Antrim R. Forsythe, his son, E. R. Forsythe, succeeded him in management of the institution. Not possessing the business acumen of his father, the son permitted the bank to back hazardous enterprises and its affairs became badly involved. The concern had been hard hit some years before, through the disastrous failure of Armel & Company, packers, and was in no condition to withstand additional financial drains.

Deposits of the institution in 1881 amounted to \$205,126.80, according to the annual statement for that year. The last statement of the bank, made on July 23, 1897, showed that deposits had dwindled to \$84,000. When the

bank suspended, four of its directors, as individuals, negotiated loans with the two other banks of Greensburg and paid off the depositors in full. These four directors who lost eighty-five per cent. of their capital stock, but who felt under obligation to make full and immediate settlements with the institution's depositors were: Nelson Mowrey, William Hamilton, Robert S. Meek and Louis Willey.

## CHAPTER XI

### SECRET SOCIETIES AND FRATERNITIES.

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#### THE MASONIC ORDER.

The first secret order to establish itself in Greensburg was the Free and Accepted Masons. Greensburg Lodge No. 36 was instituted here, May 29, 1846, by Grand Master Johnson Watts and Grand Secretary A. W. Morris. The first officers were: Israel T. Gibson, worshipful master; William Buchanan, senior warden; W. W. Riley, junior warden; James Blair, treasurer; Philip Williams, senior deacon; W. P. Stevens, junior deacon; David Gageby, secretary; W. M. Finley, tyler. These, with Thomas E. Peters, were the charter members. At the first meeting, held June 6, 1846, seven petitions were received, as follows: Philander Hamilton, James M. Talbott, Henry H. Talbott, Chatfield Howell, Joseph Robinson, William J. Likens, and Marine D. Ross. At the end of the first year there were thirty-five members and at the end of 1849 there were seventy-five.

The following are the names of the brothers who have served as worshipful master and the years they served: Israel T. Gibson, 1846-54; Jacob E. Houser, 1855-57; J. V. Bemusdaffer, 1858; Daniel Stewart, 1859-62; John M. Watson, 1861; J. J. Menifee, 1863; Col. James Gavin, 1864; Dr. William Bracken, 1865-67, 1869, 1871, 1873-77; Dr. John L. Wooden, 1868; Frank M. Weadon, 1870-72; Frank E. Gavin, 1878-80, 1882, 92; J. N. Wallingford, 1881-85; Paschal T. Lambert, 1886-87; Joseph Drake, 1893; John F. Childs, 1894-95; Frank H. Drake, 1896-97; W. P. Skeen, 1898-1900; W. C. Pulse, 1901, 1912-13; C. T. Pleak, 1902-03; Ira Rigby, 1904; Dr. E. T. Riley, 1905-06, 1908, 1911; William Bussell, 1907; Bruce Bishop, 1909-10; Locke Bracken, 1914; Robert W. Pierce, 1915.

The present officers are: Robert W. Pierce, worshipful master; J. C. Barbs, senior warden; T. P. Havens, junior warden; F. B. McCoy, senior deacon; George Hillman, junior deacon; D. A. Batterton, secretary; Robert C. Woodfill, treasurer; O. P. Creath, tyler; J. C. Crews, E. E. Doles and L. D. Braden, trustees.



The membership numbers two hundred and forty-five and is growing rapidly. The lodge has assets valued at fifteen thousand dollars and contemplates building a temple in the near future.

CONCORDIA LODGE NO. 476.

Concordia Lodge No. 476 was formed in 1873 by members from Greensburg Lodge No. 36 and kept up its existence until consolidated with the mother lodge, on November 5, 1901.

The masters of Concordia were as follow: Dr. John L. Wooden, 1873-80, 1883, 1886; Frank M. Weadon, 1881-82; Dr. J. C. French, 1884; James E. Caskey, 1885, 1894-95; Cortez Ewing, 1887-89; Dr. J. V. Schofield, 1890; J. T. Cunningham, 1891; Dr. W. H. Wooden, 1892-93; Charles T. Powner, 1896-97; David A. Myers, 1898; George B. Von Phul, 1899-1901. There were about one hundred members in this lodge when it united with No. 36.

GREENSBURG CHAPTER NO. 8, ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Greensburg Chapter No. 8, Royal Arch Masons, was instituted on May 23, 1848, by Grand High Priest Abel C. Pepper, assisted by William Hacker, king; I. T. Gibson, scribe, and J. W. Sullivan, secretary. The first convocation was held on July 6, 1848. Charter members were: William Hacker, I. T. Gibson, J. W. Sullivan, Samuel Reed, J. McElroy, Isaac W. Fugit, D. Lindley, J. T. Wilkins and P. Williams. The first petitioners, elected July 6, 1848, were: Philander Hamilton, Jacob C. Houser, George R. Todd, William Hanaway, O. P. Gilham, Samuel Bryant, H. H. Talbott and B. W. Wilson.

The designation of the chapter was No. 7 originally, but was changed to No. 8 on June 5, 1849. The first officers were: William Hacker, high priest; I. T. Gibson, king; J. W. Sullivan, scribe; Samuel Reed, captain of post; J. McElroy, principal sojourner; I. W. Fugit, royal arch captain; D. Lindley, master of the first veil; J. T. Wilkinson, master of the second veil; P. Williams, master of the third veil; Philander Hamilton, secretary; Daniel Stewart, guard; B. W. Wilson, treasurer. The following companions have served as high priest: William Hacker, 1848-49; Jacob E. Houser, 1850-51, 1853; Barton W. Wilson, 1852; Daniel Stewart, 1854, 1860-61; I. T. Gibson, 1855-56; J. V. Bemusdaffor, 1857-58, 1865-66; Ira G. Grover, 1859, 1871; J. J. Moniffee, 1862; John L. Wooden, 1867-68, 1870; George L. Curtis, 1869; Isaac L. Fugit, 1872; Frank M. Weaden, 1873-82; Joseph R. David-

son, 1883; Alexander Connolly, 1884-86, 1890-91; Paschal T. Lambert, 1887-88; Frank E. Gavin, 1889; Joseph Drake, 1892, 1894, 1896-97, 1899-1902, 1904-05; A. P. Bone, 1895; J. E. Bayless, 1903; William L. Miller, 1906; E. T. Riley, 1907; C. T. Pleak, 1908; Jesse W. Rucker, 1909; John W. Rhodes, 1910-11; Hal T. Kitchin, 1912-14; L. D. Braden, 1915.

The chapter has a membership of eighty-five and is in a flourishing condition. Fifteen were added during the first half of 1915. The chapter treasury has about seven hundred dollars surplus. The present officers of the chapter are: L. D. Braden, high priest; T. B. Havens, king; R. W. Pierce, scribe; H. T. Kitchin, past scribe; J. H. Christian, captain of host; W. G. Bentley, royal arch captain; C. I. Ryan, secretary; Robert Woodfill, treasurer; J. W. Rhodes, master of the third veil; J. N. Annis, master of the second veil; T. E. Day, master of the first veil; O. P. Creath, guard.

#### GREENSBURG COUNCIL NO. 74, ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS.

Greensburg Council No. 74, Royal and Select Masters, was instituted on August 23, 1902, by John J. Richards, illustrious grand master of the grand council, with Jesse W. Rucker, thrice illustrious master; Fred Erdmann, deputy thrice illustrious master; W. H. Wooden, principal conductor of work.

The first convocation was on September 1, 1902, when the following officers were elected: J. W. Rucker, thrice illustrious master; Fred Erdmann, deputy thrice illustrious master; W. H. Wooden, principal conductor of work; J. T. Alexander, treasurer; C. T. Pleak, recorder; C. M. Woodfill, captain of the guard; A. P. Bone, conductor of the council; D. A. Myers, steward.

These brethren were elected at the first convocation: J. M. Towler, James W. Craig, J. N. Graham, J. E. Bayless, S. R. Glenn, J. H. Christian.

There are fifty-nine members of the council at the present time. Nine have been admitted during the first half of 1915. The present officers are as follows: J. H. Christian, Jr., thrice illustrious master; R. W. Pierce, deputy thrice illustrious master; T. B. Havens, principal conductor of work; Robert Woodfill, treasurer; C. I. Ryan, recorder; W. C. Bentley, captain of guard; J. W. Rhodes, conductor of the council; S. F. Ridenour, steward; J. N. Annis, sentinel. The first thrice illustrious master was Jesse W. Rucker. He held the office until 1911, when the present incumbent, J. H. Christian, Jr., was elected.

## GREENSBURG COMMANDERY NO. 2, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

It is a matter of pride among Greensburg Masons that there once existed here a commandery of Knights Templar. Greensburg Commandery No. 2 was organized and set to work under a dispensation from Most Eminent William R. Hubbard, grand master of the United States, on March 25, 1851. The charter members were: James McIlroy, William Hacker, W. F. Pidgeon, William Crawford, George Hibben, Jacob E. Houser, M. V. Simin-son, John W. Sullivan, Homer T. Hinman, Burriss Moore and John S. Sco-bey. A charter was issued on September 19, 1853. The eminent comman-ders were: Jacob E. Houser, 1851 to 1856; J. V. Bemusdaffer acted as eminent commander between this time and 1860, but there is no record of his election; Israel T. Gibson, 1860. The other officers elected at the last election held June 30, 1860, were B. W. Wilson, captain general; J. V. Be-musdaffer, generalissimo; J. E. Houser, prelate. There is no record of any meetings after 1860. Sixty-six members were enrolled during the ten years the commandery was in operation. The Civil War called many of the mem-bers to the service of their country, causing interest to decline, until the following knights petitioned Grand Commander William Hacker to transfer the commandery to Shelbyville: Thomas Pattison, William Allen, Jacob Vernon, T. H. Lynch, Daniel Stewart, B. W. Wilson, James Gavin, Putnam Ewing, J. V. Bemusdaffer, Will Cumbach, James Elliott, Robert Cones and John Elliott. The commandery was reorganized at Shelbyville on March 18, 1865, as Baldwin Commandery No. 2.

Greensburg Commandery was the second formed in Indiana and par-ticipated in the first grand commandery at Indianapolis, May 16, 1854. It then had thirty-four members: Indianapolis No. 1 had fifty-three; Lafayette No. 3, forty-six, and Fort Wayne No. 4, fifteen. With the prosperous con-dition of all branches of the order at the present time, Greensburg Masons are looking forward to the no-distant future when they shall have a new temple and again have a commandery.

Among the early members of the craft who contributed to the establish-ing of the order here perhaps none wrought so effectively as I. T. Gibson, a prominent merchant and father of Mrs. Dr. E. B. Swem. Others who ably assisted were Jacob E. Houser, H. H. Talbott, J. Monroe Talbott, Samuel Bryan, B. W. Wilson, Daniel Stewart, Daniel Moss, J. V. Bemusdaffer, and Isaac L. Fugit. It has been said of I. T. Gibson, that he was "the father of Masonry in Greensburg," which is in a large measure true.

One of the most noteworthy events in the early history of Greensburg Masonry was the observance of St. John's Day, June 24, 1859. It was the first elaborate ceremony attempted by the local lodge since its organization. Visitors were present from Brookville, Shelbyville and many other towns in the state.

Hon. Caleb B. Smith, one of the most famous of Indiana's United States senators, addressed a large assemblage in the forenoon at the court house. At noon several hundred visiting Masons sat down to a sumptuous repast in Stockman's elevator near the freight depot. After dinner they marched to the Masonic hall, where the formal program was given.

Rev. Joseph Cotton responded to the toast, "This Day We Celebrate." "Masonry" was described by I. T. Gibson. Other toasts were as follow: "Our Newly Elected Worthy Master," Daniel Stewart; "Our Visiting Brethren," Rev. J. Brockway, Hartsville; "Our Bachelor Friends," R. C. Talbott and I. G. Grover.

Another point of interest in connection with the local Masonic lodge is the fact that it is the only lodge in the world which has ever elected and initiated a negro. The lodge has received one large bequest, Aaron Howard leaving it three thousand dollars at the time of his death.

#### MILFORD LODGE NO. 94.

Milford Lodge No. 94, Free and Accepted Masons, was organized on May 28, 1850, with the following officers and charter members: Isaac Fugate, worshipful master; Samuel Todd, senior warden; John King, junior warden; Jacob Miller, James Mandlove, Henry B. Smally, Albert G. Hanks, William Sefton and Stamper Perry. The lodge now has ninety-seven members and during its existence has initiated more than three hundred candidates.

The lodge owns its own hall, which is valued at two thousand dollars, and meets regularly. Its present officers are: Sherley Wasson, worshipful master; Charles Worland, senior warden; Lincoln Vandiver, junior warden; J. M. Luther, treasurer; Dal Neibert, secretary; Clarence Worland, senior deacon; Wallace Champ, junior deacon, and Nelson Henderson, tyler.

#### CLARKSBURG LODGE NO. 124.

Inquiry has not discovered the date of the founding of the Clarksburg lodge or any of the early history pertaining to this chapter. The pres-



ent beautiful brick building in which the lodge meetings are held is the property of this chapter. This lodge has a membership at present of fifty. The present officers are as follows: Birney E. Hite, worshipful master; Ora A. Hite, senior warden; Clifford A. Martz, junior warden; D. F. Hite, secretary; James B. Clark, treasurer; George F. Rogers, tyler; H. C. Doles, senior deacon; Lon H. Kerrick, junior deacon; W. E. Thomas and P. E. Clark, stewards; Homer M. Campbell, chaplain.

WESTPORT LODGE NO. 52.

Westport Lodge No. 52 was organized in 1852, but the charter for the installation of this lodge was not granted until the following year. In 1860 the lodge suffered the loss of their hall by fire and the early records were destroyed. This makes it impossible to give the early history of the lodge in a complete and concise form. James McKelvey was the first candidate taken into this lodge after it was organized. Dr. William House is the oldest living member of this lodge, in which he has been active for fifty years. The following is a partial list of the charter members: Christopher Stott, Noah Reynolds, Dr. Pottinger, W. T. Reynolds, Robert Armstrong and Hiram Bruce.

The present building, which is valued at two thousand dollars, is the property of this lodge. The present membership totals one hundred and twenty-four. The officers who are serving the lodge at present are as follow: W. W. Ricketts, worshipful master; Clay Clemons, senior warden; Carl Keith, junior warden; Ray D. Patrick, senior deacon; Harry Tucker, junior deacon; James Rainey, tyler; Glen Gartin, secretary; H. V. Cox, treasurer.

NEW POINT LODGE NO. 255.

New Point Lodge No. 255, Free and Accepted Masons, was organized on May 29, 1860. The records of this lodge fail to give the names of the charter members. The first officers were: Joel Pennington, worshipful master; Edward Paremores, senior warden; Ezekiel R. Cook, junior warden. The present membership numbers forty-five. The lodge building was erected in 1861 at a cost of one thousand dollars, and is a very substantial brick structure. The present officers are Edbert Starks, worshipful master; Dr. Harley McKee, senior warden; William Haas, junior warden.

ADAMS LODGE NO. 269

Adams Lodge No. 269, located at Adams, was organized in the year 1856, with W. W. Riley as worshipful master. Hiram C. Whitlow and John G. Guthrie were the two first master Masons of this lodge. This lodge surrendered its charter in 1877.

ALERT LODGE NO. 395.

The Alert Lodge No. 395 was organized on May 25, 1869, with the following members serving the lodge as the first officers: William T. Strickland, worshipful master; Agnus J. McCloud, senior warden; James S. Bannister, junior warden. The following were also among the list of charter members: Jere Gant, John B. Seal, Frank Seal, Samuel Thomas, Louis Gant, Mulford Baird, William Keeley and A. B. Mims. This lodge is in a prosperous condition and owns its own quarters, which are valued at one thousand five hundred dollars. The present officers are: Clifford N. Fulton, worshipful master; Ray Fulton, senior warden; Clifford Carter, junior warden; J. Otis Beesley, treasurer; John C. Arnold, secretary; Ray Irwin, senior deacon; George B. Blazer, junior deacon; John W. Hamilton, tyler; Ray Bannister and William Starks, stewards; Thomas Norton, John W. Spears and Smith S. Thompson, trustees.

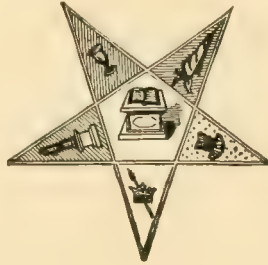
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

The Order of the Eastern Star was organized for the purpose of creating a social tie between Masons and their families and to give to the fraternity a helpmate in the beneficent work of the order in caring for widows and orphans and to assist in all deeds of mercy and love. Master Masons in good standing, their wives, daughters, mothers, widows and sisters who have attained the age of eighteen years are eligible to membership in this order.

Lois Chapter No. 147 was instituted at Greensburg, February 15, 1894, by Past Grand Patron Martin H. Rice, of Indianapolis, with thirty charter members. The first officers were: Worthy matron, Mae Childs; worthy patron, Frank H. Drake; associate matron, Rena J. Gilchrist; secretary, Eliza H. Lambert; treasurer, Ella Childs; conductress, Eliza J. Crisler; associate conductress, Margaret Schultz; chaplain, John W. Drake; Adah, Carrie Meek; Ruth, Isabella F. Stout; Esther, Louisa M. Bone; Martha, Louisa

Upjohn; Electa, Henrietta Bryan; warder, Patsy J. St. John; sentinel, A. H. Christian.

The office of worthy matron has since been filled by Eliza J. Crisler, Ella M. Stout, Missouri Moberly, Esther Lockwood, Margaret Rigby, Lizzie Styers, Lizzie Nordmeyer, Margaret Glenn, Ella Kirkpatrick, Jennie Shirk, Rena J. Gilchrist, Elizabeth Ehrhardt, Emma Creath and Ella M. Forkner. The office of worthy patron has since been filled by James C. Pulse, J. F. Childs, William P. Skeen, Coleman T. Pleak, Ira G. Rigby, Taylor F. Meek, George B. Von Phul, W. F. Gilchrist, Herschel Smiley, Owen Steadman, Bruce Bishop, Dr. E. T. Riley and Will Ehrhardt. Nannie L. Kofoid and Will Ehrhardt are the present (1915) holders, respectively, of these stations, with Candace Shepherd, associate matron; Eliza J. Crisler, secretary; Anna P. Mowrer, treasurer; Elizabeth Ehrhardt, conductress; Louise Crews, associate conductress; Margaret Glenn, chaplain; Sallie House, marshal; Clara Hamilton, pianist; Carrie Meek, Adah; Jessie Skeen, Ruth; Jennie Ainsworth, Esther; Elizabeth Bennett, Martha; Alfaretta Havens,



Electa; Lizzie McConnell White, warder, and Oliver P. Creath, sentinel. The membership now numbers one hundred and twenty-four; fifty-three have been lost by death and sixty-eight by dimit and suspension.

The crowning feature of the work of the order in Indiana at present is the building of the Eastern Star and Masonic Home at Franklin. It was through the persistent efforts of the Eastern Star that this was made possible. Two hundred and fifteen acres of land have been purchased near Franklin, on which the buildings will be erected. The cornerstone is to be laid in May, 1916. In this home, unfortunate Masons, their wives, widows and children may find a safe and pleasant retreat, surrounded with the comforts and conveniences of a home in every sense of the word. The children will be carefully trained, educated, well clothed and fed, thus symbolizing charity, truth and loving kindness.

## KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

On August 24, 1886, Greensburg Lodge No. 148, Knights of Pythias, was organized by Grand Chancellor Charles E. Shively, assisted by W. L. Heiskel, John H. Russe, Frank Bowers and other grand lodge officers. The Pythian "goat" was hard at work by three o'clock on that memorable afternoon, initiating thirty-two charter members, who were as follows: Past Chancellor, J. W. McRoberts; Chancellor Commander, Marine D. Tackett; Vice-Chancellor, Max Mergenheim; Prelate, J. Loraine Wright; Keeper of Records and Seal, P. H. Moulton; Master of Exchequer, J. T. Cunningham; Master of Finance, S. F. Rogers; Inside Guard, Will Cumbback, Jr.; Outside Guard, F. M. Bryan; D. A. Myers, C. C. Lowe, J. D. White, W. I. Johnson, C. S. Williams, T. J. Magee, W. H. Buckley, A. B. Armington, C. M. Thomas, W. Q. Elder, George L. Roberts, A. M. Elkins, C. E. Schobey, John O. Marshall, Charles F. Belser, D. L. Scobey, William A. Johnson, Phil Weymer, Henry Black, A. M. Willoughby, J. E. McKim, Frank Eubank.

It was a hot day when Greensburg Lodge was instituted, and ever since its birth its members have been a warm, live set of fellows. This lodge has always been progressive and now has over four hundred and sixty members. The business affairs of the lodge have been based upon a firm footing from the very inception of the organization. The officers who have been in charge of the business affairs have at all times as jealously guarded the interests of this fraternity of Pythonism as they would their own homes. The best business transaction was made in June, 1891, when Frank Robinson, Ezra Guthrie and George L. Roberts, then trustees, purchased the old Falconbury block and vacant lot adjoining. During the autumn of 1898 the trustees, Charles S. Williams, J. P. Thomson and Oscar G. Miller, let the contract to Ed Dille for the present useful and up-to-date business building and lodge room, occupying the ground just south of the new Y. M. C. A. building on North Broadway. This fine Pythian building is now the home and resort of all loyal hearted Knights. Beautiful club rooms are also maintained, for the pleasure and recreation of members of the K. of P. Club.

Almost seven years ago this lodge had the pleasure of being the means of providing a beautiful opera house for the city of Greensburg. This opera house is the pride of every Knight and is highly appreciated by all citizens of the city and county. Besides expending almost fifty thousand dollars for these buildings, equipment and furnishings, the lodge has been at all



times liberal and beneficent, performing many deeds of charity and benevolence, which were an outgrowth of the sentiments inculcated in the minds and hearts of the members by the teaching of Pythian principles. It has paid out in benefits and benevolent contributions since its organization over thirty thousand dollars.

Greensburg Lodge has also been high in the councils of the grand lodge of Indiana, having at this time two grand lodge officers, Brothers John W. Craig and Arthur J. Lowe, who is at present a member of the supreme lodge of the United States and Canada.

The present officers of Greensburg Lodge are: Past chancellor, E. E. Hite; chancellor commander, Ben Havens; vice-chancellor; Ira M. Ainsworth; prelate, Charles Howe; keeper of records and seal, Charles H. Dowden; master of exchequer, Robert McKay; master of finance, E. A. Rankin; master-at-arms, Stanton Guthrie; inside guard, Rollin A. Turner; outside guard, Frank Osting; trustees, Oscar G. Miller, Bert Morgan and David Blackmore.

The cardinal principles of this lodge are founded upon the exercise of friendship, charity and benevolence. Nothing of a sectarian or political character is permitted within its sacred precincts. Tolerance in religions, obedience to law and loyalty to government are fully emphasized. The Pythian order teaches its members to exercise charity toward offenders; to construe words and deeds in their least unfavorable light; grant honesty of purpose and good intentions to others and bring back any thoughtless or wayward Knight who has forgotten the Pythian teachings given in the castle hall.

#### LETTS CORNER LODGE NO. 375.

Letts Corner Lodge No. 375, Knights of Pythias, was instituted on April 13, 1892. It owns a lodge building, valued at five thousand dollars and is in a flourishing condition, both financially and numerically. The first officials of this lodge were: W. A. Taggart, past chancellor; H. H. King, chancellor commander; H. H. Boyd, vice-chancellor; J. H. Stout, prelate; John G. Evans, master of exchequer; G. W. Fraley, master of finance; K. L. Adams, keeper of records and seal; Silas Sweeney, master-at-arms; A. J. Adams, inside guard, and J. D. E. Elliott, outside guard. Other charter members of the organization were O. S. Mitchell, W. T. Morgan, W. F. Keisling, Edgar Whipple, P. M. Johnson, Edgar Samuels, C. J. Armstrong, M. S. Parker, John A. Jackson, Charles Stout, W. L. Evans, U. S. Parker, William Jordan, Albert Jordan, John Hill, George Gardner, C. J. Red,

Urso McCorkle, J. L. Davis, H. M. Mitchell, George Hodson, W. S. Whipple, J. W. Crise and John Armstrong.

der; Oda Fear, vice-chancellor; Grover Williams, prelate; Walter Jackson, master-at-work; W. G. Fraley, keeper of records and seal; E. H. Jackson, master of finance; Urso Bentley, master-at-arms; Ora Thurston, inside guard; Morris Tudor, outside guard, and John A. Jackson, John L. Davis and Harry Black, trustees. Sardinia Lodge No. 146 is an auxiliary of this organization.

ST. PAUL LODGE NO. 368.

St. Paul Lodge No. 368, Knights of Pythias, was organized at St. Paul on August 29, 1892. The charter was granted on June 7, 1893. The charter members were, J. C. Leech, G. T. Leffler, B. F. Trader, S. T. Hutson, H. C. Roberts, T. A. Kelley, F. H. Goff, E. L. Severs, W. J. Martin, E. W. Noah, Charles Allison; William Bush, W. A. Reed, O. A. Seward, J. L. Shelhorn, R. Hendrickson, J. A. Goff, L. E. Dixon, J. R. Kanouse, L. E. Lines, G. F. Bailey, C. M. Barnes, J. W. Jenkins, C. C. Fisher, F. M. Allison, F. P. Walton, F. M. Howard, Daniel Apple, Harry Hayes, J. M. Shortridge, J. P. Garrett, J. F. Strickford, John Doggett and Conrad Minger. The first officers were, past chancellor, L. E. Dixon; chancellor commander, J. W. Jenkins; vice-chancellor, F. P. Walton; prelate, C. C. Fisher; master of exchequer, R. Hendrickson; master of finance, J. M. Shortridge; keeper of records and seal, L. E. Lines; master-at-arms, O. A. Seward; inner guard, J. E. Walton; outer guard, Frank Goff; and C. M. Barnes, James Goff and James Severs, trustees.

The present membership consists of twenty past chancellors and sixty-two Knights.

The present officers are: Chancellor commander, Joseph Stotsenburg; vice-chancellor, Manley Corwein; prelate, George W. Boling; master-at-work, E. H. Crosby; keeper of records and seal, J. T. Cuskaden; master of finance, Orla Cuskaden; master of exchequer, J. B. McKee; master-at-arms, W. J. Martin; inner guard, G. T. Leffler; outer guard, Jacob Johannes; trustees are W. J. Martin, D. J. Ballard and Jacob Johannes.

The lodge property consists of a three-story brick building, constructed in 1903, at a cost of about five thousand dollars. Property and improvements are estimated to be worth at least eight thousand dollars.

The building is a monument to the enterprise of the Knights of Pythias in the town of St. Paul, and the rentals are a source of income which is quite

a bolster to the finances of the lodge at this critical time, the lodge having considerable sickness among its members.

The lodge is now taking on new life, after a long period of laxity, and bids fair to regain the place that it once held, as being one of the live lodges of the state.

BURNEY LODGE NO. 341.

Burney Lodge No. 341, Knights of Pythias, was organized, June 8, 1892, with the following charter members: Edwin Jackson, Morgan Miers, Ira Lewis, E. E. Mouse, O. B. Trimble, William G. Miner, John G. Gartin, Levi M. Craig, John E. Miller, Charles T. Powner, T. T. Howell, James M. Hiner, William A. Gartin, John W. Burney, G. S. Crawford, Harve Pumphrey, John Johnson, Felix Garten, G. W. Wiley, Charles Braden, John Hunter, G. W. Miner, Ed Stewart, Frank House, Francis Pumphrey, James Pumphrey, Julius Benson, Francis Galbraith, G. M. Miner, Jr., Hershell Miers and Ira Ballard. Charles L. Powner, past chancellor, installed this lodge. The first officers were L. T. Howell, chancellor commander; Morgan L. Miers, vice-chancellor; James Hiner, prelate; F. L. Galbraith, master of exchequer; Ed Jackson, master of finance; W. E. Arnold, keeper of records and seal; Frank House, master-at-arms; William Garton, inner guard; G. M. Miner, outer guard; J. W. Burney, O. W. Trimble and Charles T. Powner, trustees; Charles T. Powner representative. The present building was erected in 1895 and the membership has almost reached the hundred mark.

The present officers are as follows: Freman Sasser, chancellor commander; W. W. Barnes, vice-chancellor; Samuel Lawson, prelate; Carl Pavy, master-at-work; J. H. Dean, keeper of records and seal; James Galbraith, master of finance; E. A. Porter, master of exchequer; Bert Oliphant, master-at-arms; Emzee Elder, inner guard; Herbert Stribling, outer guard; Floyd Miner, host; C. W. Pumphrey, Edward Jackson and Ira Carmen, trustees.

This lodge has an auxiliary in the Rathbone Sisters, which was organized on October 3, 1900. This chapter bears the local name of Triangle Temple No. 232.

WESTPORT LODGE NO. 317.

Westport Lodge No. 317, Knights of Pythias, was organized, May 8, 1891, with the following charter members: James M. Burke, William Hause, J. N. Keith, L. E. McCoy, E. G. Davis, J. T. McCullough, M. D. Harding, T. M. Durpree, S. R. Ames, J. E. Davis, William Martin, H. I. Fueston, S. C. Knarr, W. G. Updike, S. C. Scripture, T. Strout, T. E. F. Miller, W. R.

Barnes, G. T. Alexander, William F. King, Silas Sweeny, E. G. Radley, B. B. Rogers. The first officers were as follows: James M. Burk, past chancellor; William Hause, chancellor commander; J. N. Keith, vice-chancellor; L. E. McCoy, prelate; E. G. Davis, master of exchequer; J. T. McCullough, master of finance; M. G. Harding, keeper of records and seal; T. M. Dupree, master-at-arms; S. R. Adams, inner guard; J. E. Davis, outer guard.

The building which this lodge occupies at present is the property of the lodge and is valued at seven thousand dollars. The present officers are, George C. Nicholson, chancellor commander; J. M. Tucker, vice-chancellor; Edward Whalen, prelate; Walter Watterman, master-at-work; A. Boicourt, keeper of records and seal; E. L. Shaw, master of finance; M. D. Harding, master of exchequer; Weaver Elliott, master-at-arms; J. E. Davis, inner guard; James H. Keith, outer guard.

Miriam Temple No. 246, Pythian Sisters, was organized on October 2, 1901, as an auxiliary of the Westport lodge.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Newpoint Lodge No. 656, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized on January 22, 1890. The following men applied to the Greensburg lodge for a chapter to be installed at Newpoint: William L. Hasbrouck, William Cheek, Jet Boyd, A. E. Dorsey, Richard Christain and James Borden. The lodge was instituted on April 16, 1890, by E. S. Porter, who was appointed by the grand master to install this chapter.

The charter members were as follow: Leander Starks, John L. Hilliard, George Hollinsbee, L. C. Jackson, John Dryer, Charles Marlin, H. P. Danforth, L. W. D. German, Benjamin Ketcham, John W. Snedeker, George W. Foster, James E. Butler, and Herman Green. The following members served the lodge as the first officers: L. C. Jackson, noble grand; Leander Starks, vice-grand; Charles Marlin, recording secretary; George Hollinsbee, permanent secretary; John L. Hilliard, treasurer.

The lodge purchased its present quarters for the consideration of one thousand dollars and has made improvements since that time. A piano was purchased in 1910. This lodge is in a prosperous condition and at present has eighty-five members enrolled. Benefits of four dollars per week are paid the sick members, and the resources at present amount to one thousand four hundred and eighty-five dollars and twenty-four cents.

The present officers are: Lewis Bare, noble grand; Frank Walker,



vice-grand; R. F. Carr, recording secretary; F. M. Thackéry, permanent secretary; Ora Cheek, treasurer.

#### DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH.

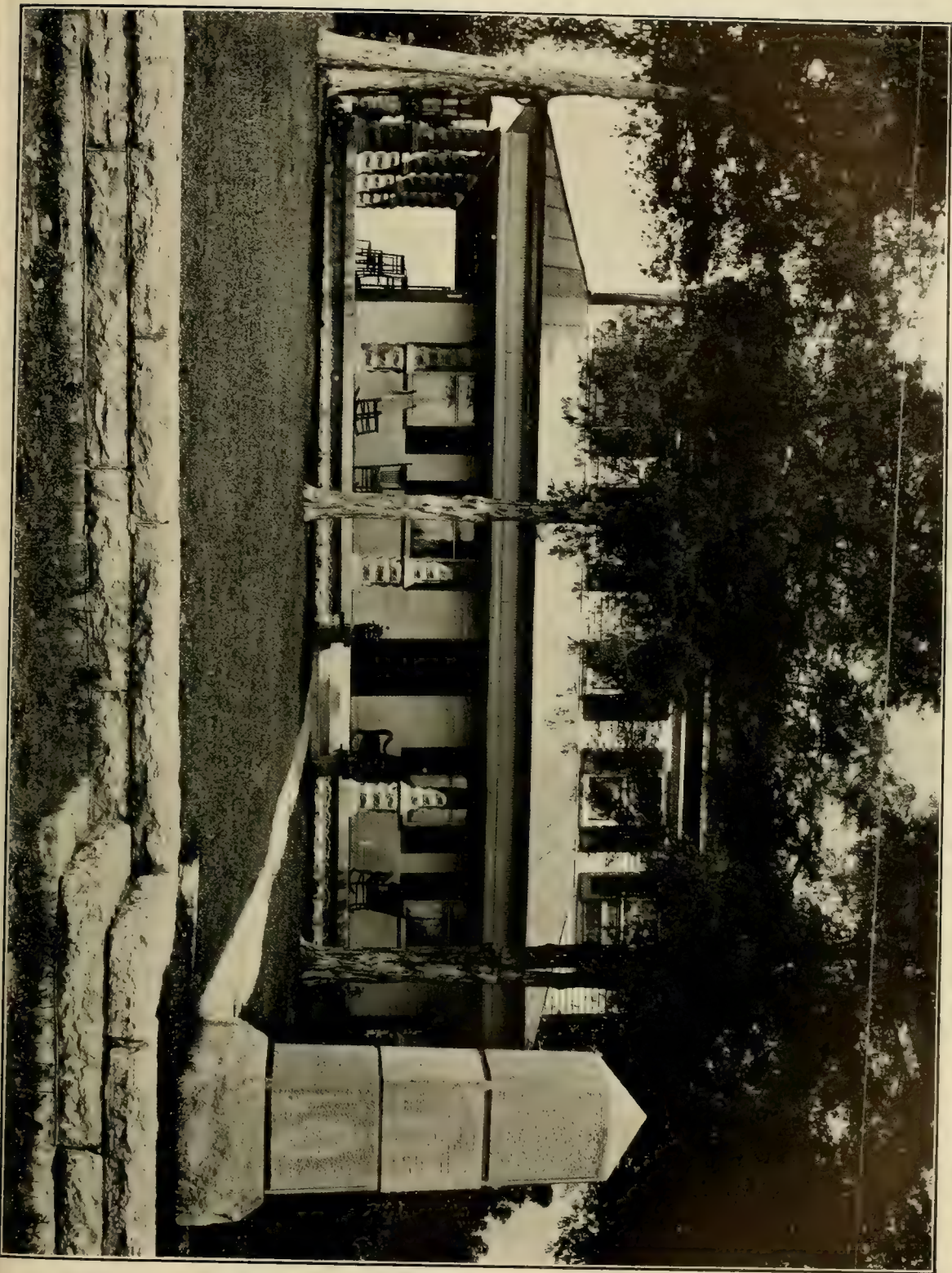
Lodge No. 523, Daughters of Rebekah, which locally is known as White Dove lodge, was instituted on August 31, 1896. This is an auxiliary of Newpoint lodge. The following were charter members of White Dove lodge: John H. Hilliard, Ora Cheek, John M. Green, Hattie Marlin, Ollie Minning, Minnie Snedeker and Mrytle Jerman.

#### SANDUSKY LODGE NO. 856.

Sandusky Lodge No. 856, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized on May 21, 1908, with the following charter members: John L. Clemons, Louis Ruddell, Lafayette Bowman, Benjamin T. Riley, Llewellyn Fleetwood, William H. Scott, Harvey Townsend, William Maple, Otis Nation, George Smith, Albert Bowman and Wesley Bennett. The first officers were: Benjamin T. Riley, noble grand; J. W. Bennett, vice-grand; Otis Nation, secretary; Louis Ruddell, treasurer. The lodge has had a prosperous growth and at present numbers sixty-five members. The present officers are: Frank Maple, noble grand; Llewellyn Fleetwood, vice-grand; Ed Ricketts, recording secretary; John W. Patterson, corresponding secretary; Orville Garrett, treasurer.

#### CENTENARY LODGE NO. 535, MILFORD.

Decatur Lodge No. 103, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, journeyed down to Milford on June 6, 1876, and assisted in organizing Centenary Lodge No. 535. W. D. Dailey, district deputy noble grand, had charge of the ceremonies. The following charter members were present: A. P. Bennett, Frank Getzendanner, Leonard Worcester, S. L. Jackson and E. S. Porter. The latter presided as noble grand; L. Worcester, vice-grand; Z. T. Boicourt, treasurer; J. K. Ewing, secretary; Frank Getzendanner, conductor; G. W. Richey, warden; Sylvester Kendall, inner guard; Adam Stegmaier, outer guard. Thirteen applications for membership were favorably acted upon. No. 103 presented the new lodge with paraphernalia and the following new officers were elected: W. T. Jackson, noble grand; John Braden, vice-grand; Dr. J. H. Alexander, secretary; James Braden, treasurer.





The lodge suffered the loss of its rooms on April 24, 1877. The present building was completed in 1856 and the lodge hall, which is located in the second story, was purchased by the lodge in 1877 for the consideration of six hundred dollars. The present membership numbers eighty-five. Benefits and resources amount to two thousand four hundred and eighty-seven dollars and five cents. The present officers of the lodge are as follow: Wallace Champ, noble grand; William Oliphant, vice-grand; Elmer Swift, secretary; Charles Braden, treasurer; O. B. Trimble, Marion Lane and James Conk, trustees.

## ADAMS LODGE NO. 790.

Adams Lodge No. 790, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was installed on November 13, 1902. Its first officers were: J. R. Turner, noble grand; I. C. Glass, vice-grand; Webster Rhoads, treasurer; J. N. Cushman, financial secretary, and Walter Cory, secretary. Other charter members were: J. D. Walker, C. E. Shields, David Longstreet, M. M. Coy, J. A. Ford, R. G. Kirby, James Gay, William Van Ausdall, J. A. Shephard, M. R. Turner, T. R. Davis and A. G. Christ.

Fire completely destroyed the lodge building on November 1, 1906, but a new hall was immediately erected and the lodge continues to make steady progress. Its present officers are: Roy Darby, noble grand; Ed. Shaner, vice-grand; John Inman, secretary; Merritt Webb, financial secretary, and Walter Rhoades, treasurer. The lodge hall is valued at three thousand five hundred dollars.

## CLARKSBURG LODGE NO. 559.

Clarksburg Lodge No. 559 was organized on May 23, 1878, and has a very strong membership. Its first officers and other charter members were: A. A. Chenoweth, noble grand; A. S. Creath, vice-grand; G. T. Bell, secretary; J. A. Miller, treasurer; W. D. McCracken, warden; W. W. Ewick, outer guard. It was organized by A. P. Bennett, Samuel J. Jackson, F. Getzendanner, Leonard Worcester, Joel W. Stites and A. Stegmaier, of Greensburg. The lodge owns a substantial building which cost more than five thousand dollars to erect.



## WESTPORT LODGE NO. 681.

Westport Lodge No. 681 was installed on August 27, 1891, with the following officers and charter members: Thomas Bemish, noble grand; P. M. Rhodes, vice-grand; W. R. Tucker, secretary; S. C. Cann, financial secretary; G. D. Little, treasurer; Thomas Bemish, Morris W. Brewer, E. K. Hause and O. M. Taylor. The lodge owns its own building, which cost five thousand five hundred dollars to erect. Its present officers are: P. F. Owens, noble grand; M. G. Stewart, vice-grand; Carl Davis, secretary; J. W. Holcomb, financial secretary, and George C. Nicholson, treasurer. Westport lodge has one hundred and forty-four members.

Shiloh Lodge No. 560, Daughters of Rebekah, is an auxiliary of Westport lodge. This organization was effected on January 18, 1898, by the following women: Annie Nicely, Mrs. George Wheelwright, Sarah Owens, Mollie Keith and Mary Sample.

## COVENANT LODGE NO. 163.

Covenant Lodge No. 163, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at St. Paul, was organized on July 11, 1855. The following comprise the list of charter members: Stephen Ridlen, Jonathan Kurr, George Reede, William Reede, Thomas Reede, Squire Van Kelt, Michael Halloren, Elisha H. Crosby, Milton Corwin, Charles J. Smith, Samuel McKee and William C. Lowden.

The Odd Fellows' building was completely destroyed by fire and all the early records were destroyed, therefore it is impossible to ascertain the names of the first officers. The lodge owns a two-story brick building, erected in 1879, with two business rooms on the first floor. It also owns a three-story brick building, which has three stores on the first floor, while the other two stories are occupied by the lodge. Total value of the lodge property is eight thousand six hundred forty-one dollars and fifty-five cents. The present membership numbers ninety. The present officers are: Warren Brook, noble grand; Thomas Wolverton, vice-grand; H. F. Prill, recording secretary; J. B. McKee, financial secretary; Fred Metzler, treasurer.

## MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

Westport Camp No. 1487, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on December 1, 1909, with the following officers: C. D. Owens, ven-

erable consul; J. O. Ketcham, worthy adviser; E. I. Boicourt, banker; A. S. Boicourt, clerk; C. A. Stott, escort; George Fultz and W. H. Keith, sentries. The following men were also numbered among the list of charter members: H. E. Clark, H. M. Crowder, J. A. Elliott, Omer Givan, J. W. Evans, J. C. Hill, William Landis, John Morgan, W. T. Stott and J. C. Talkington.

The present membership numbers forty, with the following officers serving the camp at the present time: E. L. Shaw, venerable consul; G. C. Nicholson, worthy adviser; E. R. Boicourt, banker; A. S. Boicourt, clerk; W. W. Ricketts, escort; D. T. Surface, watchman; A. O. Taylor, sentry.

NEWPOINT CAMP NO. 9840.

Newpoint Camp No. 9840, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on May 21, 1910. This camp was instituted by the Greensburg and Batesville degree teams and thirty-one members were initiated the first night, while three were added by transfer from other lodges at the time of the installation of the camp. S. G. Fitch served as head deputy for initiation. The following men were enrolled the first night: J. C. Barbe, John Brade-water, R. F. Carr, J. C. Colson, C. R. Dowden, Walter Harding, A. E. Huber, C. C. Barnard, U. G. Brown, John H. Castor, William J. Colson, Holman Glidewell, B. A. Hilliard, Ira Martin, Chris. F. Myer, George M. Neimeyer, Charles Risinger, Howard F. Starks, William H. Swegman, Curtis H. Walker, John L. Wiecher, Harold J. Wolf, Willis R. Wolf, W. R. Castor, John Hart, George Price, Ward Williams, Charles Meyer, O. P. Grove, A. L. Shazer, Harley McKee, J. E. Starks, William C. Parmer and V. H. Minning.

The first officers were as follow: A. T. Shazer, venerable consul; George Neimeyer, worthy adviser; J. C. Barb, banker; R. F. Carr, clerk; A. E. Huber, escort; John Hart, watchman; C. C. Barnard, sentry; Harley S. McKee, physician. The present officers are as follow: Charles Reisinger, venerable consul; Charles Meyer, worthy adviser; William Colson, banker; B. A. Hilliard, clerk; Glenn Gibberson, escort; William Gentry, watchman. The present membership is twenty-eight. The insurance of the members in 1915 totaled thirty-two thousand five hundred dollars.

LONE TREE CAMP NO. 7253.

Lone Tree Camp No. 7253, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on November 24, 1899, with the following charter members: W. H.

Black, W. R. Brazelton, Charles Clemens, C. M. Carter, E. E. Davis, J. B. DeArmond, Elmer Saunders, O. M. Elder, I. F. Springer, B. S. White, W. H. Hoffmeister, M. G. Harley, W. E. Jameson, Len Marsh, George Montgomery and H. F. Pottenger. The first officers were as follow: John W. Holcomb, venerable consul; Elmer Saunders, worthy adviser; J. B. DeArmond, banker; W. R. Brazelton, clerk.

Several years previous to this a camp of the Modern Woodmen had been installed in Greensburg, but this camp never experienced a great growth and about the year 1898 was moved to Shelbyville. The present camp has had a flourishing existence, with a total membership at present of one hundred and eighty. The insurance at this time amounts to two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. The lodge has suffered the loss of sixteen brothers, with insurance paid out amounting to twenty-four thousand dollars. The officers at present are: John H. Tresler, venerable consul; Roy Styers, worthy adviser; M. S. Wamsley, banker; Will Ehrhardt, clerk.

#### RED MEN.

Omemee Tribe No. 394, Improved Order of Red Men, at Westport, was organized on August 27, 1904, with the following charter members: George Hollensbe, James Coupa, William Eddy, Dave Clark, E. H. Hensley, D. F. Surface, S. C. Knarr, Jacob Hensley, Joseph Stuart, John Fraser, Edgar Logan, Ruben Hensley, Frank Bowers, J. M. Wynn, David Bowers, J. L. Biddinger, William Seasmé, Oliver Seasmé, Grover Bowers, Isaac Earhart, James Fulton, Matthew Frazer, Lewis Bowers, William H. Biddinger, Albert Lawrence, Charles Atkins, Sanford Layton, Carl E. Stone, Clite Seasmé, Clarence Stewart, J. E. Lawrence, S. H. Biddinger.

The first officers were as follow: Isaac Earhart, senior sagamore; J. M. Hynn, junior sagamore; J. E. Lawrence, keeper of wampum; George Hollensbe, sachem; C. A. Stewart, prophet; S. H. Biddinger, chief of records.

The tribe at present owns property valued at one thousand one hundred dollars. Three dollars per week are paid out for sick benefits. The present membership numbers eighty-four. The present officers are Joseph Childers, senior sagamore; Harry Tucker, junior sagamore; Ira T. Colson, sachem; Wesley Idlewine, keeper of wampum; Curtis Goble, chief of records; E. H. Dusenberger, prophet.

## YONAH TRIBE NO. 470.

Yonah Tribe No. 470, Improved Order of Red Men, was organized on April 20, 1908, at Clarksburg. The charter members who assisted in the organization of this tribe were as follow: W. C. Buell, D. H. Bently, E. A. Lewis, W. A. Dorsey, F. Morgan, I. M. Linville, A. M. Hite, B. E. Farthing, C. L. Brown, William Ray, W. E. Tingle, R. Linville, H. Terhune, Ed. Lanpri, R. C. Ray, C. M. Morgan, P. Campie, G. E. Marford, C. Carrell, L. Lewis, M. Ray, S. F. Bentley, S. L. Dobbys, C. E. Freeland, R. Parker, C. Humphry, I. Humphry, William Winker and F. Springmire. The present membership numbers forty-eight. The benefits for this lodge are placed at four dollars per week. The value of the present quarters is placed at five hundred dollars.

The present officers are D. C. Demaree, sachem; J. C. Deiwert, senior sagamore; E. E. Whiten, junior sagamore; D. D. Morgan, chief of records; C. E. Freeland, keeper of wampum; C. E. Freeland, prophet.

## BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS.

Greensburg Lodge No. 475, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, was organized on April 26, 1899, with thirty-one charter members. The first exalted ruler was S. P. Minear. Others who have held this position since the installation of the lodge are: Charles Zoller, J. Van Woodfill, William C. Pulse, Web Woodfill, Fred L. Thomas, Hugh D. Wickens, Charles H. Ewing, Hal T. Kitchin, Will H. Lanham, Robert C. Woodfill, Charles H. Dalmbert, John W. Craig, Frank Hamilton, Robert E. McKay and R. A. Turner.

Since its installation the lodge has grown to a membership of one hundred and fifty-four and is now considered the leading social organization of the city. It is composed of representative business and professional men of Greensburg, occupies a fine suite of apartments on the north side of the square and is ever ready and willing to undertake acts of charity and kindness which have rendered the order distinct in all places where it has a lodge.

Present officers of the order are: E. E. Hite, exalted ruler; A. E. Lemmon, esteemed leading knight; J. C. Hornung, esteemed loyal knight; James H. Lanham, esteemed lecturing knight; Hal T. Kitchin, secretary; D. A. Batterton, treasurer; Herbert Hunter, esquire; Will C. Monfort, chaplain; Ira Miller, inner guard, and John Crooks, tyler. Trustees are Harry Emmert, J. F. Russell and Loren L. Doles.



## IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN.

Pequonnock Tribe No. 185, Improved Order of Red Men, was organized on May 15, 1894, with the following charter members: John F. Childs, A. P. Bone, W. L. Bennett, William H. Rybolt, George S. Dickey, William Bruner, George Kesling, William Weathers, J. B. Conover, W. A. Lawson, T. J. Powell, Dan Styers, R. F. Thomas, Branson Beeson, John Riley, Smith Riley, George Beeson, Perry Robbins, William A. Brooks, John Abbott, A. L. Dickey, William Fulks, Brack Chance, J. R. Patton, Dr. L. W. D. Jerman, Taylor F. Meek, J. W. Roberts, Charles Reed, John I. Rodman, Frank Pickett, P. I. Clark, O. H. Rybolt, Harry Renigar, R. H. Look, D. E. Biddinger, J. W. Fletcher, Joseph Reingar, Charles Phillips, Cyrus Waters, E. A. Cavett, Charles S. Short.

The first officers were: John F. Childs, sachem; W. L. Bennett, senior sagamore; J. W. Roberts, junior sagamore; A. L. Dickey, keeper of records; T. J. Powell, keeper of wampum; G. O. Barnard, conductor of work; R. F. Thomas, Branson Beeson and Frank Smith, trustees. The present beautiful building is the property of the lodge and is valued at eighteen thousand dollars.

The present membership of the lodge numbers two hundred and ninety. The present officers are: John King, sachem; N. S. Doles, senior sagamore; Frank Murdock, junior sagamore; Joe Renigar, prophet; William Snell, keeper of records; G. O. Barnard, conductor of work; J. L. Luchte, keeper of wampum; Charles A. Dowdle, Link Beeson and W. S. Harvey, trustees.

## DEGREE OF POCAHONTAS.

Pequonnock Council No. 111, Degree of Pocahontas, is an auxiliary of the Red Men's tribe of Greensburg. The charter for this order was granted on October 20, 1898. The meetings are held in the Red Men's hall. The membership at present includes seventy persons. The officers serving the lodge at this time are: Sarah Robbins, Pocahontas; Mary Robbins, Wenonah; James B. Towler, Powhatan; Jacia Pool, prophet; Lottie Dowdle, keeper of records; Lydia McMillan, keeper of wampum.

## PEQUONNOCK HAYMAKERS.

Pequonnock Haymakers' Association No. 185½ was chartered on May 15, 1895. The meetings are held on Wednesday evenings in the Red Men's

hall. The membership at present totals one hundred and five. The present officers are: Dola Robbins, chief haymaker; Frank Murdock, assistant chief haymaker; Arthur Murdock, overseer; Dallas Land, past chief haymaker; William M. Snell, collector of straws; Charles Dowdle, keeper of bundles; William Best, R. C. West and James M. Duncan, trustees.

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE.

The Loyal Order of Moose was organized at Louisville, Kentucky, on April 12, 1888. It is not an insurance order; there are no assessments of any character; it is not a rival of any other fraternal organization; it is not a class organization, but is open to all good white citizens between the ages of twenty-one and fifty. At the end of 1914 the order had over one thousand four hundred and fifty lodges, with a total membership of more than half a million. The initiation fee for charter members is five dollars and after the charter is closed the initiation fee is increased to twenty-five dollars. The Moose pay benefits of seven dollars a week to sick or disabled members. The death benefit is one hundred dollars.

Lone Tree Lodge No. 1005 at Greensburg, is the only one of this order in Decatur county. It was organized on November 12, 1913, with the following charter members: Joseph Gentry, Fred Stiet, W. B. Brogan, Elijah Vanderdur, Clarence Stith, Benjamin Meyer, L. J. Alexander, George Cosmas, George A. Kurr, Sabe Perkins, C. F. Kercheval, Paul R. Tindall, William McCormick, Lowe Bush, Lemuel J. Howard, Michael McCormack, Oscar F. Kuhn, Loren Hutcheson, William Weeks, Earl Martin, Ed Buchannan, Harry Vanderbur, Herschel Vanderbur, James Frances, Fred Tucker, John Muldoon, Charles Jackson, William Boyce, David Wiley, James Sparks, Morton Davis, Carl Suttles, George Richards, John A. Abbott, Jefferson Morris, D. C. Powner, Len Fischer, David Bower, Ed Bozzell, Joe Stier, Thomas Davis, William Littell, Frank Buckley, Fred Weber, William Fulks, Sherman Patton, William B. Lemasters, James Smith, David Welsh, W. T. Vanderbur, Ross Grimes, B. E. Baker, W. H. Scripture, Ace Dean, Ora Grimes, J. Dunn, Clifford English.

The officers at present are as follow: Joseph Gentry, past dictator; Paul R. Tindall, past dictator; Michael Gutting, dictator; Frank Murdoch, vice-director; Blaine Hoin, prelate; Sabe Perkins, secretary; Earl Crooks, treasurer; Bernard Menzie, sergeant-at-arms; Martin Sparks, inner guard; Ace Dean, outer guard; Ben Meyer, James Ford and J. L. Alexander, trustees. The membership at present totals three hundred and seventy-five.

## KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN.

St. Boniface Commandery No. 227, Knights of St. John, was organized on October 9, 1914, with a total membership of thirty-six. The installation of this chapter took place on Sunday, October 18th. The following comprises a list of the charter members: Rev. A. J. Urich, Dr. N. C. Bauman, Edward Luken, John B. Rolfes, Bernard Blankman, Edward Kroeger, B. W. Zapfe, John Schoetmer, Lawrence Duerstock, Clem Duerstock, Joseph Duerstock, George Frye, Ed Frye, William Frye, Leo Frye, George Luken, Henry Luken, Louis Luken, Louis Schoetmer, Henry Meier, Clem Herbert, Andrew Butz, Frank Vaske, Bernard Harping, Benjamin Harping, Charles Witkemper, John Witkemper, Louis Moorman, Joseph Moorman, Jr., Albert Goldschmidt, Louis Moenkedick, Joseph Kesterman, Joseph Redelman, Edward Feldman, Lawrence Ruhl, John Wenning.

The present officers are Rev. W. J. Urich, chaplain; Dr. N. C. Bauman, president; Ed Luken, first vice-president; John B. Rolfes, second vice-president; Bernard Blankman, recording and corresponding secretary; Edward Kroeger, financial secretary, B. W. Zapfe, treasurer; John Schoetmer, captain; Ed Kroeger, first lieutenant; Lawrence Duerstock, second lieutenant; George Frye, William Frye, Lawrence Ruhl, Joseph Duerstock, Bernard Harping, trustees. The present membership has reached forty-eight and the growth of this chapter has not reached its maximum.

This lodge is divided into a military and social body. The military body consists of twenty-two members at present. The members dress in full uniform on certain church celebrations, making the ceremonies very impressive. They also meet for drill twice each month. The Knights have rented the Scheidler hall for their meetings, but expect to build a hall of their own in a short time.

All sick members are taken care of and the lodge pays a certain benefit to all sick members. Each member is assessed five dollars annually, paid in quarterly installments. The members also give social entertainments and dances to help defray the lodge expenses.

## CHAPTER XII.

### SOCIAL AND LITERARY CLUBS.

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#### GREENSBURG DEPARTMENT CLUB.

The history of the Greensburg Department Club is unique. Eight musical and literary clubs in 1913 testify to the interest Greensburg women have manifested in the purely cultural side of club life. But their membership was limited and their range of activity narrowed by tradition and the avowed purpose of the organization. There were many women outside of these circles who longed for cultural advantages, and many within them who longed for opportunities for greater service to the community. It was this growing impulse toward service rather than any spirit of restlessness or discontent, that inspired the new movement.

It was especially appropriate that the Cycle, the pioneer among the women's clubs of the town, should take the initiative. A committee from this club, of which Mrs. J. F. Goddard was chairman, visited each club and presented a plan of organization. Seven of the clubs voted to assist in the enterprise and delegated their officers to be a general committee to discuss and decide the various questions of organization. From this representative body the seven presidents were chosen to serve as a constitutional committee. This committee, Mrs. R. M. Thomas, chairman; Mrs. W. C. Ehrhardt, Mrs. J. C. Meek, Mrs. Web Woodfill, Miss Camilla Donnell, Miss Mary Rankin and Miss Eula Christian, with Mrs. Goddard as an advisory member, had the wisdom to provide for a growth far beyond their expectation and their work has been subjected to but few minor changes. The constitution was accepted by the general committee and published. Mrs. Goddard, who had presided at all of the meetings of the general committee and whose interest and activity never failed, was elected president. The other officers were: First vice-president, Mrs. D. W. Weaver; second vice-president, Miss Emma Donnell; recording secretary, Mrs. Locke Bracken; corresponding secretary, Miss Vessie Riley; financial secretary, Mrs. W. C. Ehrhardt; treasurer, Miss Ethel Watson; directors, Mrs. Marshall Grover, Mrs. C. R. Bird, Mrs. J. K. Ewing, Mrs. George Ewing, Mrs. R. M. Thomas, Mrs. O. G. Miller.



In February and March of 1913 one hundred and twenty-five women, members of the original seven small clubs, signed the constitution and became charter members of the Greensburg Department Club. The motto for the club was, "United Progression," and time has proved that it was well chosen. For, though each one gave up much that she valued in the old associations, she did it cheerfully with a vision before her of greater opportunities both for herself and others. The first regular meeting was held on October 7, 1913.

The year book provides for eight meetings during the year, two of a business and social nature and six which bring before the club lecturers and musicians of ability. But the real life of the club is found in the four departments, art, literature, music and social economics. The art department was formed nearly a year after the organization of the club, but bravely began its career with an art exhibition of great value. The plan is to make this an annual event in the life of the club and community. The members of the department carry on a study of the history and appreciation of art, with the aid of occasional lecturers. The literary department began with two lecture circles, but the number of these popular circles grows with time. The organization of the evening lecture circle opened the doors of the club to those who are busy during the day. The music department may be characterized as the most generous, for it has opened its meetings to the general club a number of times and its choral organization adds greatly to the club meetings. It is hoped that the May festival may become a permanent feature of the year's work. In the social economics department the spirit of service finds its largest field of activity. The three circles, civic, evening civic circle and mothers' circle, began at once to co-operate in various civic enterprises. Sanitation, fly extermination, "the city beautiful," "shop early" campaigns, community Christmas tree, and "clean up week," are a few of the activities which owe their origin to this department. The work accomplished during the first two years is noteworthy, and a continued educational campaign will finally win the hearty support of the whole community. A domestic science circle, under this department, will be popular with a number of women. An unusual and very interesting feature of the club is the auxiliary young people's department. This circle follows somewhat the same line of work as the art department, thus developing appreciation and taste.

The Greensburg Department Club has been fortunate in many ways. The unselfish and unsparing devotion of its first president, Mrs. Goddard, inspired each member with something of her own spirit, and busy men and women have given generously of their time and strength to help her. Her tact won the respect and co-operation of business men and city officials.

While the thought of an adequate club house has been in the mind of many from the first, for some years the club must depend upon the continued generosity of the churches, the city hall and private homes. An important step was taken when the club accepted an invitation to join the Indiana Federation of Clubs, for in that organization it can both give and receive inspiration. The membership at the end of two years was three times that of the charter enrollment. Such an enthusiastic beginning is seldom the fortune of new enterprises, but the hearty interest of each member will continue its inspiration through many years of influential activity.

The last meeting of the Greensburg Department Club for 1915 was held on May 4, in the Knights of Pythias lodge room. In order that future generations of the city may know what their good forefathers did on this night, the full report of this meeting is here given as it appeared in the *Greensburg Daily Review* of May 5, 1915:

"This being the annual business meeting, reports of the officers and chairmen of the various committees were heard and accepted. Two new members, Mrs. Bert Askren and Mrs. Dan Linegar, were voted into the club.

"Mrs. Goddard, the president, being ill, the vice-president, Mrs. D. W. Weaver, had charge of the meeting. She read a note from Mrs. Goddard, who sent her regrets at not being present and also sent words of cheer and encouragement to the club. A member of the club expressed the sentiments of the entire club in words of deepest praise for and appreciation of the president. Her words were voiced unanimously by the club members. After the business, a short program followed. Miss Gertrude Haas gave two piano numbers. A play, entitled "A Mouse Trap," by W. D. Howells, was given. Following was the cast of characters: Mr. Willis Campbell, Mr. Charles Ewing; Mrs. Somers (widow), Mrs. W. W. Bonner; Mrs. Carmen, Mrs. R. R. Hamilton; Mrs. Roberts, Miss Marie Braden; Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. A. M. Reed; Mrs. Miller, Miss Ethel Ewing; Jane (maid), Miss Florine Sefton.

"Each character acted the part well, especially Mrs. Somers, the widow, and Mr. Campbell. The play afforded much pleasure and merriment for those present. A social time followed, when refreshments, consisting of ice cream, strawberries, cake, coffee and mints, were served. Thus the second annual meeting passed, with business mixed with much pleasure."

KAPPA KAPPA KAPPA.

The Omega Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa was organized in Greensburg in 1907, with Mary Littell Tremain, Lela Robbins Christian, Helen

Baker Lumbers, Ruth Bonner Meek, Mary Isgrigg Hamilton and Anna Bird Thomas as charter members. The first officers of the chapter were Ruth Bonner Meek, president; Mary Littell Tremain, vice-president; Lela Robbins Christian, recording secretary; Mary Isgrigg Hamilton, corresponding secretary, and Anna Bird Thomas, treasurer.

It is affiliated with the general state society of Kappa Kappa Kappa, which was founded at Miss Sewell's School for Girls in Indianapolis in 1904. Since that time it has grown in numbers so that now more than one thousand five hundred girls in the state of Indiana wear the skull and cross keys, the society badge.

The object of the organization is "to bring girls into a close, unselfish relationship, which shall be beneficial to themselves as well as to others." Several kinds of charitable work are carried on by the chapter, as well as the general society, and at all times there is a willing response to any appeal for help. Its purposes are two-fold—charitable and social, and by both means girls are brought into the "unselfish relationship," which is the object of the organization.

This chapter, aside from assisting the Associated Charities, has given aid to defective children from poor families; helped high school students with funds so that they might graduate; paid hospital and operation expenses and given material help in cases where, under other circumstances, help would not have been accepted.

At present there is a membership of eighteen girls, all of whom are active workers. The officers are: President, Mignum White; vice-president, Bright Emmert; treasurer, Mae Montgomery Harrison; recording secretary, Ruth White; corresponding secretary, Marie Braden.

#### THE CYCLE.

The Cycle claims the distinction of being the pioneer literary club of Greensburg. It was organized on March 5, 1891, by Mrs. S. H. Morris, and the following members were admitted during the first year of its history: Miss Hannah Baker, Miss Sadie Baker, Mrs. W. W. Bonner, Mrs. Sam Covert, Mrs. George Dunn, Jr., Mrs. J. K. Ewing, Mrs. J. F. Goddard, Miss Jessie Hart, Miss Margaret Lathrop, Miss Clara Lambert, Mrs. Jessie F. Moore, Mrs. S. H. Morris, Mrs. Milton F. Parsons, Mrs. A. Prather, Miss Vessie Riley, Mrs. George B. Stockman, Miss Fannie Wooden, Mrs. A. M. Willoughby, Miss Mollie Zoller, Miss Lou Zoller, Mrs. Enos Porter, Mrs. R. M. Thomas, Mrs. J. V. Schofield.

The first president was Mrs. S. H. Morris. Its object was to promote social intercourse between unmarried and young married ladies of the city and for scientific and literary culture. Membership was limited to twenty-five. During the twenty-one years of the club's existence these two objects were ever kept foremost. Discovering and developing much latent talent, musicians, story writers, poets, dramatic readers and actors were secured, making it possible to present many rare and unique entertainments at its frequent open meetings. The Cycle was always noted for its hospitality and came to be a dominant factor in the social life of Greensburg.

Being the mother of literary clubs here, it always sought to maintain a dignity of purpose and to set a good example to its numerous offspring. The club in every way fulfilled the mission for which it was created, far exceeding the hopes and aspirations of its most sanguine founders.

It was with much regret that the organization yielded to the call for a larger field of service and on January 16, 1913, founded the Department Club. At that time there were twenty-five active members, sixteen honorary members, representing nine states, and four who had gone to their final reward.

On March 5, each year, the Cycle comes together in reunion. Those who cannot come in person respond by letter.

The Cycle will live in the hearts of a devoted membership until time has so depleted its ranks that its useful career becomes a mere matter of history.

Presidents of the organization were: Mrs. S. H. Morris, Miss Hannah Baker, Miss Sadie Baker, Mrs. Jessie Moore Serff, Mrs. W. W. Bonner, Mrs. Fannie Wooden Moss, Mrs. Mollie Zoller Lewis, Mrs. Jeessie Hart Woodfill, Mrs. J. K. Ewing, Mrs. Sam Cövert, Mrs. Clara Lambert Miller, Miss Vessie Riley, Miss Pearl Williams, Mrs. J. F. Goodard.

#### THE MOTHERS' CIRCLE.

The Mothers' Circle was organized about 1901 by Mrs. Cortez Ewing. It was first known as the Mothers' Prayer Circle. Its object was to discuss topics such as would be helpful to mothers with young children. A few of the charter members were: Mrs. Cortez Ewing, Mrs. Joe Alexander, Mrs. Alex. Porter, Mrs. Oscar Miller, Mrs. Dr. E. B. Crowell, Mrs. Edward Hizer, Mrs. John Hofer, Mrs. Wayne McCoy and Mrs. George W. Bird. The meetings were most informal, not having any regular program, but many heart-to-heart talks, which all enjoyed thoroughly and did lasting good to those who participated in them. The meetings were held once each month in



the homes of the different members. Every meeting was opened with Scripture reading and sentence prayer, in which almost every member took part, also very delicate refreshments were served.

In 1906 the circle was reorganized and a constitution and by-laws were adopted. Mrs. Rena Gilchrist was elected president, and Mrs. Nellie Bird, secretary. A program committee consisting of Mrs. Elsi Dunaway, Mrs. Olive Gilham and Mrs. Alice Welch, was also elected. Neat programs were prepared and such subjects as "Family Loyalty to God," "Books for Children," "Patriotism," "The Ideal Mother," "Temperance," and "Character Building," were among the many subjects discussed. These programs were continued, with the different members being elected to the different offices each year.

In March, 1913, after much hesitation, the circle voted to enter the Department Club. The meetings were continued in much the same manner, with additional members.

The circle will continue their meetings in the same manner during the year 1915-1916, with Mrs. Ray Hamilton as chairman, Mrs. Bert Gilham, vice-chairman, and Mrs. E. M. Beck, secretary-treasurer.

#### THE PROGRESS CLUB.

The Progress Club was organized on October 2, 1863, according to its constitution, for "promotion of intellectual and social growth." Its first officers and other charter members were: Miss Edith Patten, president; Miss Delle McLaughlin, vice-president; Miss Edith Hamilton, secretary; Miss Ethel Bartholomew, treasurer; Misses Emma Donnell, Terressa Elmore, Clara Robison, Blanche McLaughlin, Myrta Patton, Bessie Donnell, Hannah Evans, Martha Evans, Ida Hollensbe, Helen Rankin and Jean Rankin.

The organization now has twenty-five members and eleven honorary members. It meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month and the program is always an interesting and important part of each session, although the social feature is prominent. The program is usually a part of some special course of study.

Many social functions are given by the club, delightful informal affairs, although occasionally there are more pretentious ones. Lasting benefits have been derived by its members from study and research work, and it has established a closer bond of friendship in the entire city.

Members are, many of them, high school graduates and have had the advantages of higher education and travel. The club's present officers are: Miss Cora Donnell, president; Miss Emma Donnell, vice-president; Miss Winifred Newhouse, secretary, and Miss Hazel Scott, treasurer.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB.

The Woman's Club was organized on January 31, 1893, for "social and intellectual culture." By constitutional provisions, its membership was limited to twenty. Its first officers were: Mrs. J. H. Alexander, president; Miss Julia F. Cooke, vice-president; Mrs. R. C. Hamilton, secretary, and Mrs. Joseph Davison, treasurer. After twenty pleasant and profitable years, during which it maintained a high standard of literary work, the organization disbanded in 1913, and was merged into the Department Club.

THE TOURIST CLUB.

In the early days of club life in Greensburg, there was organized the first literary club for both ladies and gentlemen. It was on the evening of October 1, 1894, at the home of Judge F. E. Gavin, that this, the Tourist Club, was started. Throughout the subsequent years, until the recent merging of all the literary clubs of Greensburg into the great Department Club, the Tourist Club was a live organization in the literary circles of the city.

Prof. W. P. Shannon was the president, and among the charter members were: Prof. and Mrs. W. P. Shannon, Judge and Mrs. F. E. Gavin, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Silberberg, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Cortez Ewing, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dowden, Judge John D. Miller, Mr. Harry Lathrop, Mr. Oscar G. Miller, Miss Martha Miller, Miss Margaret Lathrop and Miss Clara Lambert.

The imaginary journeys of the club, to all quarters of the globe, both far and near, brought both profit and pleasure—profit by way of preparation for subsequent real journeys and pleasure, by way of promoting the closer ties of friendship.

The personnel of the club shifted with the changing years, but always composed a band of Greensburg's most interesting citizens. At the time the club entered the Department Club, two years ago, but two of the charter members still belonged, namely: Oscar G. and Clara Lambert Miller.

## THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB.

For the purpose of research along the line of literature, history and art, the Fortnightly Club was organized in 1894, with Clara Ardery, Lottie Dickerson Dohyns, Jessie Donnell Erdmann, Kate Emmert, Bertie Hitchell Morgan, Myrtle Hollensbee Hamilton, Annette Miller Davidson, Anna Monfort, Glenn Montgomery Russell, Clara Russell Mills, Cora Sefton Robbins, Kate Stewart, Mary Thomson and Cora Zoller Davidson as charter members. The membership has grown until at the present time (1915) it includes thirty names. The names of Clara Russell Mills, Nell Donnell Erdman, Annette Miller Davidson, Bessie Montfort and Kate Rogers Crawford, who have departed from this world, are held in sacred remembrance by the club members. For the last four years, Mrs. Demarchus Brown, of Indianapolis, has lectured before the club. When the Department Club was organized in 1913, the individual members of the Fortnightly Club entered that organization and the literary work of the later organization was dropped. Since that time it has existed simply as a social club. The officers for 1915 were: Mrs. Harry Mount, president; Mrs. J. C. Alexander, vice-president; Mrs. Van Woodfill, secretary, and Kate Stewart, treasurer.

## THE RESEARCH CLUB.

On the 23rd of February, 1909, at the home of the late Mrs. Nettie Sampson Dils, was formed the Research Club. The purpose of the club, as set forth in its constitution, was intellectual and social growth. With this ever in mind, its programs and meetings were rich in value and interest. Mrs. Dils was the inspiring genius of the little group and her memory is held by the members of the club with tender reverence. Throughout the organization she was the gentle censor that molded its purpose. As a tribute to the honor and esteem in which she was held, she was chosen its first president. To aid her, Mrs. Ella Long Doles was chosen vice-president; Mrs. Ada Richardson Porter, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Minnie Ketchum Porter, recording secretary, and Mrs. Ella Hittle Christian, treasurer. A membership committee, of Mrs. Ollie Dickey Gilham, Mrs. Ada Richardson Porter and Mrs. Nelle McKee Kercheval, and a program committee, of Mrs. Ollie Rogers Donnell, Mrs. Nettie Sampson Dils, Mrs. Ella Long Doles, Mrs. Ada Richardson Porter and Mrs. Ella Hittle Christian, were appointed. The list of original members included Terressa Ardery,

Mary Ardery, Annie Rouse Bird, Ella Hittle Christian, Eula Christian, Nettie Sampson Dils, Ella Long Doles, Ollie Rogers Donnell, Ruby Doyle Eward, Ollie Dickey Gilham, Nelle Drake Hazelrigg, Maude Kitchin Johnston, Rose Moffett Kessing, Nelle McKee Kercheval, Fannie Wood Nordmeyer, Ada Richardson Porter, Minnie Ketchum Porter, Edith Patton, Katie Sefton Robbins, Grace VanBuskirk, Della Mount Wooden and Mary Wood Weaver. The club held thirteen very instructive meetings at the homes of its members during the first year of its existence.

During the second year, from September, 1910, to May, 1911, Edith Patton acted as president, with Mary Ardery as vice-president, Mrs. Rose Moffet Kessing as corresponding secretary, Mrs. Olive Dickey Gilham as recording secretary and Mrs. Maude Kitchin Johnston as treasurer. This year's membership list included the name of Mary Snodgrass Wallingford.

The next year saw Anna Albrecht Meek, Eleanor Eich Lowe, Sallie Wright Weaver and Pearl Kitchin Woodfill as new members, and the following officers served: Mrs. Annie Rouse Bird, president; Mrs. Mary Wood Weaver, vice-president; Mrs. Fannie Wood Nordmeyer, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ruby Doyle Eward, recording secretary, and Mrs. Nell Drake Hazelrigg, treasurer.

The year 1912-1913, saw the last of the Research Club as an independent organization, as about that time it was incorporated into the Department Club. Mrs. Ada Richardson Porter was president this last year, and Mrs. Terressa Lowe Ardery, vice-president; Mrs. Della Mount Wooden, corresponding secretary; Eula Christian, recording secretary, and Mrs. Nona Eich Lowe, treasurer. This year's membership shows the new name of Louise Fogel Baker.

#### THE LITERARY CLUB OF 1914.

The Ladies' Literary Club of 1914 was organized, as the name indicates, in the year 1914. Its first meeting was held on February 20, at the home of Mrs. Clara Talbott. In the beginning the club consisted of eighteen members, with Mrs. Ella Christian, president; Mrs. Sarah Wooden and Mrs. Maggie Woodfill, vice-presidents; Mrs. Mary Stegmaier, secretary; Mrs. Mattie Rucker, treasurer, and Mrs. Mary Bracken, sponsor. The purpose of the club was to promote a love of knowledge, the first motto being, "The love of knowledge cometh with reading and grows upon us." The programs were of a miscellaneous character and broadening in their effect. One



of the strong features of the club's work is its social life. The love among the members was of the Jonathan and David type and when an invitation came to become a member of the Department Club—to amalgamate with the other clubs of the city and thereby lose its identity—the Club of 1914 protested. The old ties could not be broken. And when at last it submitted to the inevitable, a unanimous vote was cast for a semi-annual meetings of the members, that the social life might never die, and so in spirit it lives on. Of the original members, those holding membership to the last were: Mrs. Nellie Donnell, Mrs. E. H. Lambert, Mrs. Fannie Nordmeir, Mrs. Anna Pleak, Mrs. Mattie Rucker, Mrs. Sarah Wooden and Mrs. Maggie Woodfill.

#### THE MARRIED LADIES' MUSICALE.

The first musical club of Greensburg was known as the Married Ladies' Musicale, and was organized in the fall of 1889, with about twenty members. Recognizing the need of some plan to preserve the musical talent of the busy home-makers of Greensburg, Mrs. Milton F. Parsons invited a number of musical ladies to her home, and suggested the plan and line of work which she thought would prove helpful, not only to the individual members, but, by elevating the musical taste of the public, to the city as well. The idea was enthusiastically received, and an organization at once effected.

Mrs. Parsons was made the first president. Under her efficient leadership, the work was so well launched, that the membership and interest increased from year to year.

The Married Ladies' Musicale gave many concerts in Greensburg, and furnished the music for many public occasions, one of the greatest being the dedicatory service of the Odd Fellows home.

Those who served as presiding officers were Mrs. Milton F. Parsons, Mrs. J. K. Ewing, Mrs. Jessie Moore, Mrs. W. W. Bonner, Mrs. J. Bracken, Mrs. R. W. Montgomery, Mrs. David Silverberg, Mrs. W. C. Woodfill, Mrs. Frank Bennett, Mrs. Curtis Kendall, Mrs. Charles Stegmier, Mrs. Frank Batterton, Mrs. Seth Donnell, Mrs. R. M. Thomas and Mrs. Cassius Hamilton, who was the last presiding officer. In 1913 this organization disbanded to become a part of the Department Club.

#### THE CECILIANS.

During the winter of 1897, Prof. Charles Hansen, of Indianapolis, was instructing a class in pipe organ in Greensburg, and to him some young ladies

expressed the desire for a musical club. He heartily approved the desire, offered his aid to the purpose, and on February 18, 1897, met with a number of young ladies in the Presbyterian church for the purpose of forming a club to study the masters and their works. After much discussion, the club was organized, bearing the name, The Cecilian. The officers chosen were: President, Stella Murphy; vice-president, Pearl A. Williams; treasurer, Nona Eich; assistant treasurer, Cora Zoller, and secretary, Riena Stevens. The Misses Della Mount, Ina Cox and Bertie Hitchell were appointed to draft a constitution and set of by-laws. The decision was reached to have miscellaneous programs, alternating with programs given to the study of some composer and his work.

The first regular meeting was held with Miss Cora Zoller, on March 4, 1897, Professor Hansen having charge of the program. He gave a lecture on the development of music, with illustrations on the piano, using the familiar air of "Johnny Smoker," playing it in the styles peculiar to Bach, Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Schumann.

For a time no organization better fulfilled its purpose. The work accomplished was a delight to both performers and listeners. The chorus work, under Miss Claribel Winchester, is indelibly stamped on the memories of the members. For several seasons meetings were held in the auditorium of the First Methodist Episcopal church, with associate members as audiences. Guest day recitals were eagerly looked forward to by all the lovers of music in the community. Profitable courses of study were included in the work of the organization as well as bringing artists to the city as an inspiration to higher music culture. The Cecilians put forth many efforts for music advancement in the county, one of which was the editing a newspaper column under the heading "Music Notes."

The last officers serving the organization were: Eula Christian, president; Ethel Watson, vice-president; Mrs. D. A. Meyers, secretary; Pearl A. Williams, corresponding secretary, and Worth Stewart, treasurer. The last membership enrollment contained the names of Vivian Baylor, Mrs. P. C. Bentle, Eula Christian, Mrs. Earl Crooks, Mrs. George Diewart, Emma Donnell, Mrs. Guy Guthrie, Kate Haas, Alice Haas, Clara Hamilton, Mrs. Earl Hite, Emma Hitchell, Vina Knowles, Mrs. Walter Kirby, Ruth Kammerling, Mrs. Arthur Lowe, Stella Murphy, Mrs. Bart McLaughlin, Mrs. D. A. Myers, Mayme O'Hare, Nellie Rigby, Stella Stagg, Florine Meek, Mrs. Bert Morgan, Emma Stout, Marguerite Shannon, Worth Stewart, Mrs. Paul Tindall, Pearl A. Williams, Ethel Watson, Mrs. E. E. Wooden, Mabel Welsh, Mrs. Robert Woodfill, Louise Ehlers and Mrs. Edward Owens.

The names of the deceased members, Olive Smyth, Mrs. Roxy Thornburg Eward and Mrs. Adaline Zoller Ansted, will ever be held in remembrance.

The Cecilians, realizing the value of the Department Club, became ardent promoters, and today many of its members are enrolled in the music study circle.

#### THE ATHENAEUM.

The Athenaeum, a literary society organized in the spring of 1912, was founded by a group of men, all then in Greensburg, who were interested generally in literature, and was designed for more serious work in research and writing. It held some important meetings before some of its members removed from Greensburg, at which some work of permanent value was produced. The society was limited in membership to ten men, as follow: B. F. Bennett, C. W. Bare, Dr. Charles R. Bird, John F. Goddard, E. L. Grover, Lewis A. Harding, E. C. Jerman, John W. Rhodes, F. D. Townsley and Dr. D. W. Weaver.

The society maintained its activities for one good year, 1912-1913, and during that time the following men served as its officers: D. W. Weaver, president; E. C. Jerman, vice-president; and John W. Rhodes, secretary-treasurer. The following program of work was presented by the society to the membership and invited guests during the year: "The Preliminary Diplomacy of the Spanish-American War," Lewis A. Harding; "Child Philosophy," Prof. C. W. Bare; "Medicine in Shakespeare," Dr. Charles R. Bird; "The Kinetick Theory of Matter," Prof. F. D. Townsley; "The Lawyer's Interpretation of 'The Merchant of Venice,'" John F. Goddard; "Right Thinking," Dr. D. W. Weaver; "Plant Breeding—Mendel's Law and Application," Prof. E. L. Grover; "The Dynamic Force of Human Development," Prof. E. C. Jerman; "The Short Story," John W. Rhodes; "The Jury System," B. F. Bennett.

This society represented perhaps the most serious effort at research and writing ever attempted in an organized way by a literary organization at Greensburg. The members tackled big subjects. Of Mr. Harding's work on "The Preliminary Diplomacy of the Spanish-American War," Dr. Amos Hershey, professor of political science and international law in Indiana University, says "it will be of interest and value to students of American history."

## CHAPTER XIII.

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

There have been physicians in Decatur county from its earliest organization, and in the ninety-three years which have elapsed since its creation there have been hundreds of physicians who have practiced in the county for varying lengths of time. Few of the early doctors had college training, but they seem to have successfully combated the "fever an' ager" and such complaints as were common among the pioneers. The old-time doctor was a man of wonderful versatility. He could bring the new-born child into the world, christen the babe or comfort the mother if the child failed to live. He could formulate a will or dictate a codicil and, in a case of necessity, could act as a lawyer for his patients. His medicines were largely manufactured by himself from medicinal plants which he gathered in the neighboring woods. These home-made remedies, together with quinine and calomel, constituted practically the extent of the pioneer doctor's supply of remedial agents.

It is not certain who was the first physician in Decatur county, but it is known that Mrs. Justus Rich practiced medicine in Greensburg as early as 1821 or 1822. Other early physicians were Conduit, Gillespie, Hartley, Teal, Lyman and Stubinger. These were followed by Drs. Joshua Poole, John Richey, Frederick Fogg and Abram Carter, these four coming at various periods between 1835 and 1840. Doctor Carter had practiced in Clinton township for several years previous to this.

About 1840, Dr. William Armington, a native of Saratoga county, New York, located in Greensburg, after having practiced for a short time in Switzerland county, Indiana. He was probably the leading physician of the county until the time of his death, February 24, 1862. Another able physician who settled here about the same time as did Dr. Armington was Dr. John W. Moody, a native of Pennsylvania, who practiced in the county until his death in 1867. There was perhaps no more popular physician in the county than Doctor Moody, and in the treatment of acute diseases he made a reputation which was not confined to the county. Other physicians settling in Greensburg before the Civil War were Drs. George W. New, E.



B. Swem, Newberry Wheeldon and John Wheeldon. Doctor Strong is said to have been the first physician at Clarksburg, although Doctor Gillespie, who later moved to Greensburg, was the first physician in Fugit township. Other early physicians of Fugit township were, Doctors Wiley, Weed, Hughes and Hopkins.

According to the 1882 atlas, there had been or were practicing at that time in the various townships of the county the following physicians: Adams township, Drs. Ritchey, R. J. Depew, U. G. Reeves, W. H. Webb, Floyd Connett, Lewis, Cook, Armstrong, Underwood, Shipman and Howard; Clay township, Drs. W. E. Crawford, Lewis McAllister, John Ritchey, St. John, Hawk, James O'Byrne, William A. and Joseph Ardery, A. L. Underwood, George F. Chittenden, J. W. Martin, John Craig, J. L. Wooden, E. W. Leech, U. G. Reeves, J. H. Alexander and George S. Crawford; Fugit township, Drs. Nathaniel Lewis, S. C. Foster, Robert H. Crawford, Bell & Roberts, Burk, Cain, Thomas Johnson and J. L. Smith (other practicing physicians of Fugit township have been previously mentioned); Jackson township, Drs. William and D. B. Davis, S. W. Ryker, Austin Marlow, William Hanna, N. E. Charlton, D. Owens, J. W. Allison, William F. and J. H. S. Reiley and Biddinger; Sand Creek township, Drs. Schultz, Conwell, McCullough, Pottinger, Sparks, Van Horn, J. P. Burroughs, William Hause, Michael Daily and J. V. Schofield (two of these physicians, Burroughs and Hause, were surgeons in the Civil War); Marion township, Drs. Lutz, S. B. Hitt, Hammond, Frank Daily and Reamy; Salt Creek township, Drs. Pennington, Price, Pye, McConnell, Floyd and Dowden; Washington township, Drs. J. L. Armington, George Armington, William Bracken, L. C. Bunker, J. L. and W. H. Wooden, M. G. Falconberry, J. Y. and S. B. Hitt, C. A. Covert, J. C. Humphries, J. W. Craig, Samuel Maguire, S. V. Wright, Samuel Cook, A. A. Armington, J. C. French, R. D. Homsher, John H. Bobbitt and D. L. Scobey. Presumably all these practiced in Greensburg.

An act of the Legislature in 1885 provided for the registration in each county of all the physicians practicing therein, and the subsequent list exhibits the names of all the physicians registered in Decatur county since that year. The lengthy list of 1885 gives not only those who were admitted to practice that year, but also all those who had been practicing previously to that year.

1885—Frank H. Snedeker, Thomas Johnson, John H. Bobbitt, George E. Clark, G. Tassfeld Ruby, John W. Parker, Samuel V. Wright, George S. Crawford, William Bracken, Cornelius Cain, John H. Alexander, C. M. Beall, John L. Smith, Mordecia B. Mobly, A. A. Armington, J. Y. Hitt, John

L. Wooden, Alphanso Armstrong, Francis M. Howard, J. W. Howard, William H. Wooden, S. B. Hitt, Benjamin S. White, Samuel Maguire, Eli Pennington, L. C. Bunker, J. W. Selman, Daniel L. Scobey, William F. Reiley, J. H. S. Reiley, D. J. Ballard, Alfred S. Remy, W. A. McCoy, Milford G. Falconbury, R. M. Thomas, Londa W. D. Jerman, Minton C. Vest, J. V. Schofield, F. M. Daily, E. B. Swem, J. H. Leatherman, William Hause, Richard J. Depew, J. B. Kirkpatrick, J. B. Bracken, Erastus E. Eads, Bart Fitzpatrick, James T. Burroughs, Samuel Pagin, Thomas J. Clark, Cornelius A. Covert, Austin Marlow, George W. Godfrey, Conrad Hauser, S. W. Biddinger, Wesley Goff.

1886—James L. Tevis, W. H. Webb, William G. Butler, Robert D. Homsher, T. E. F. Miller, John C. Hicks, James S. Shields, Berry Painter, Lewis C. McFatridge.

1887—Alvin L. Bailey, W. S. Tingley, John F. Rodgers, Samuel C. Thomas, Simeon Stapp, J. K. Smalley, A. Southworth, Thomas B. Gullefer, B. M. White, I. B. Hettinger.

1888—Sam H. Riley, James Monroe Woods, Myron H. Williams, John M. Tobias, Hiram B. Wray.

1889—Alva M. Kirkpatrick, E. W. Leech, Frank H. Rorick, Orion K. Thomson, E. W. Leech, Frank H. Rorick, W. O. Coffee, Amos W. Dowden, Samuel Salisbury.

1890—Dr. E. J. Price, Charles H. Bogmann, L. P. Walter, Fernando A. Grant.

1891—John Wimmer, Henry Johnston.

1892—James R. Jacks.

1893—Mary Hobbs Iredals, Sanford E. Givan, Mrs. Carrie Brandenburg, Charles Westley Brandenburg.

1894—Condie Butler Beck.

1895—Eden T. Riley, Charles Gilchrist, Elton Baker Crowell.

1896—Isaac Dunn, Frank E. Auten, D. W. Weaver, Ira Witten Sanders, Charles B. Jeffers, George McDonnell Ober.

1897—Charles Leslie Howard, Daniel J. Ballard, William Bracken, John H. Alexander, John H. Bobbitt, L. W. D. Jerman, T. B. Gullifer, R. M. Thomas, D. W. Weaver, Eden T. Riley, L. E. Bunker, S. E. Givan, Thomas Johnson, Henry Johnson, William Hause, John M. Tobias, J. V. Schofield, I. M. Sanders, J. M. Wood, C. A. Covert, Samuel Wright, Myron H. Williams, B. S. White, J. Y. Hitt, E. B. Crowell, C. M. Beall, John W. Parker, Milton C. Vest, C. L. Howard, J. H. D. Lorimor, W. H. Web, T. E. F. Miller, Thomas J. Clark, G. S. Crawford, Wm. H. Wooden, Condie

B. Beck, John L. Smith, S. B. Hitt, Francis M. Daily, J. H. S. Riley, George E. Denny, F. M. Howard, J. W. Howard, G. D. Dorremus, I. T. Burroughs, J. M. Boyer, Oliver F. Welsh, C. B. Grover.

1898—A. B. Morris, Harriet C. D. Wilson, William L. Wilson, William Warner, Clarence Fay Kercheval, O. K. Thomson.

1899—R. T. Gephart, T. A. Welch, William J. Hatfield.

1900—J. B. Crisler, Loren A. Hyde.

1901—Ezra H. Pleak, W. E. Thomas, Harry N. Oldham, John Robert Love, M. A. Tremain.

1902—Charles W. Pagel, George McOber, J. B. Kinsinger, Leroy M. Comyer, Jesse W. Rucker.

1903—Herman Essex, Hiram M. Johnson, Warren D. Scott, William Edgar Thomas.

1904—John Curtis Hill, Charles Lafayette Williams, Clement L. Canada, H. E. Wilcox, Charles W. Pagel, J. W. Shrout, Clyde C. Morrison.

1905—John Francis Duckworth.

1905—Harry Gilbert Fleming, E. K. Westhafter, John W. Bell, Curtis Bland.

1906—Thomas J. Martin, P. C. Bentle, Charles R. Bird.

1907—William B. McKinstry, Jacob C. Glass, Charles Wood, John Curtis Hill, Harley S. McKee, H. E. Wilcox, John Q. Garver.

1908—Edward A. Porter, Charles H. Weaver, Clarence W. Mullikin, William G. French, John H. S. Riley.

1909—Nicholas C. Bauman, Charles D. Allison, Andrew Robison, J. E. Curtis, C. S. Bolender.

1910—Carl D. Jewett, John H. S. Riley.

1911—Charles W. Pagel, Clyde C. Morrison, Prosser E. Clark.

1912—Dilber E. Douglas, Paul R. Tindall, Carl Y. Carlewysbeane, Cecil G. Harrod.

1913—George J. Martz, Gewase C. Flick.

1914—William R. Turner.

1915—Joseph Coomes, Louis D. Robertson.

The editor of this volume has been very fortunate in securing the services of Dr. John H. Alexander, one of the oldest physicians of Decatur county, to write brief sketches of the most prominent deceased physicians of the county. For the sake of reference they are arranged in alphabetical order:

SOME PHYSICIANS OF DECATUR COUNTY.

By J. H. Alexander, M. D.

Dr. Joseph C. Ardery was born in Decatur county, Indiana, in 1825, and died, from a congestive chill, in Hartsville, in 1854. He was one of the four delegates from Decatur county to the convention that met in Indianapolis, June 6, 1849, to organize a state medical society. He probably was a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, organized January 25, 1847, two years before the state society was organized. His postoffice was Milford until a short time before his death. He must have been a very popular physician, as he was often referred to and quoted by his former patrons in Clay township fifty years after his death. He died before he reached his thirtieth year.

Dr. William Ardery, whose name is among the members of the medical society organized on January 25, 1847, in Decatur county, resided on a farm northeast of Greensburg.

Dr. John L. Armington, younger brother of Dr. William Armington, came from Switzerland county, Indiana, to Greensburg in 1841 or 1842. He entered into partnership with his brother and practiced in this county fourteen years. He was a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, also a delegate to the convention held at Indianapolis, on June 6, 1849, to organize a state medical society—the State Medical Association. Drs. Joseph C. Ardery, John W. Moody and George W. New were also delegates from Decatur county. Doctor Armington removed from this county prior to 1858.

Dr. William Armington was born in Saratoga county, New York, in 1808, and died on February 24, 1862. He came to Switzerland county, Indiana, in 1829, and practiced there until in 1840, he removed to Decatur county, where he continued in practice until shortly before his death. He was a very successful physician. In politics, he was a Democrat. Probably he was not a member of any church, though possibly a Methodist. He was a moral and exemplary man; a good citizen; neat in apparel; liked to talk medicine and was always instructive and entertaining. His advice to one doctor was, "When you don't know what to do, give calomel." He surely was a calomel doctor. He believed in blood-letting, as was common at that time in certain conditions. He was a safe and discreet consultant. Doctor Armington's name is among the members of the Decatur County Medical Society, organized on January 25, 1847. He was a member of Greensburg Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons.

In an obituary in the *Decatur Republican*, published in Greensburg, we find the following tribute from his lodge:



"His labors have been indefatigable, and success, corresponding, his skill and knowledge are known and acknowledged by all. To relieve suffering has been the leading object of his life. Wherever the sufferer was he was ever ready to go, whether among the rich or poor, among the noble or ignoble. A man of mark—in whatever department he acted with his fellow-man—he was made for a ruler. His own clear intellect and varied attainments rendered him prominent in the community. Unpretending, yet commanding, such position was never sought, but always attained. But while yet in the midst of usefulness to his family and community, he has been removed by death, and the living have a legacy in his character and discharge a last duty to him by conveying his body to that narrow house to which all the living are hastening; therefore,

"Resolved, That, as a lodge, we attend the funeral of our deceased brother, to testify our high esteem for him as a man and a Mason, and to assure those of his immediate family that they have our heart-felt sympathy.

"Resolved, That in the character of our deceased brother we recognize the accomplished physician, the intelligent and honorable gentleman, the devoted husband and father, as well as a much esteemed and consistent man.

"B. W. WILSON,

"J. B. LATHROP,

"P. EWING,

*"Committee.*

"GEORGE M. COLLINS, *Secretary.*"

His remains rest in South Park Cemetery, beside his two wives, several sons and other members of his family.

Sam C. Bartholomew was a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, organized on January 25, 1847, but no other history of him can be found.

Dr. William Bracken, a noted physician and esteemed resident of Greensburg since 1862, was born near Valley Junction, Dearborn county, Indiana, May 26, 1817. His parents, Thomas and Matilda (Coen) Bracken, removed with their family to Rush county, Indiana, in 1821. In 1834, when only seventeen years old, young Bracken began the study of medicine with Drs. H. C. Sexton and W. H. Martin, in Rushville. Being a persistent student and eager for knowledge, his acquirements soon gave him claim to an examination and license for the practice of medicine. Medical colleges at that day were not available to many, but a provision, as substitute for them, was the district board of censors, to whom by state law, was given the privilege to

examine and license to practice medicine such as desired it. Young Bracken, being recommended, appeared before the censors of the fifth medical district, passed his examinations successfully and received his license, which read as follows:

"We, therefore, have licensed William Bracken to practice as a physician and surgeon, with all the rights and privileges and honors thereunto appertaining, and we do recommend him to the faculty and the patronage of the public.

"Done at Connersville, Indiana, November 2, 1836, the year of American independence the sixty-first.

"Witness our hands and the seal of the society affixed.

"JOHN M. HOWLAND, *Pres.*,

"RYLAND T. BROWN, *Sec.*"

[SEAL.]

Dr. John M. Howland was the father-in-law of Dr. John W. Moody, of Greensburg. He was a prominent physician of the day and a graduate of the University of Maryland, in 1819.

Dr. Ryland J. Brown was a graduate of the Ohio Medical College, at Cincinnati, class of 1829. He was state geologist in 1854 and professor of natural science in Northwestern Christian University, at Indianapolis, in 1858. He was an author and a man of mark and unusual acquirements.

Doctor Bracken, within sixty days after receiving his authority to practice medicine, removed to a small village in Jackson county, remaining there but a short time. It seems he had plenty of malaria and practice, and but little pay. Returning to Rush county, he located at Richland, and later at Milroy. In 1862 he removed to Greensburg. On November 9, 1837, Doctor Bracken was married to Patience A. Berry, of Rush county, and to this union there were born four sons and one daughter. Mrs. Bracken died on April 18, 1898, in Greensburg. Mrs. Martha Rucker is the only survivor of the family.

In 1850, while a resident of Rush county, Doctor Bracken was elected a delegate to the constitutional convention of Indiana and was the last surviving member.

For the advancement of his chosen profession he was always a willing worker. He was an active member in the county medical society, and very seldom absent from its meetings. When Doctor Bracken spoke, the members present always "sat up and took notice," as he always said something—though not always according to conceded points or opinions. He was sometimes aggressive, but defended, with ability, authorities cited or his personal

experience given to sustain his position. Doctor Bracken was a good diagnostician, a close observer, did his own thinking and formed his own opinions and conclusions. In the sick room he acted, and knew why he did so. He had confidence in himself. He was president of the Decatur County Medical Society several years. In later years he let those who experimented with new remedies lead, and, when tested and proven, was ready to approve and use them.

Doctor Bracken was one of the first secretaries of the county board of health as now organized.

The last time Doctor Bracken met with the county society, he was called on to address the members then present. His remarks were almost entirely reminiscent, as a pioneer physician, relating to the hardships, dangers, difficulties, doubts and trials of these physicians, which were described with trembling voice, sometimes with sadness, again animated with the pride of victory and success. Some of the older physicians present had similar experience, while the younger were surprised and perhaps skeptical. In those days visits were necessarily made on horseback, with saddle bags to carry his armamentarium of herbs, roots, barks, etc., often to be prepared at the bedside as infusions. There were no granular tablets or fluid extracts in those days.

Doctor Bracken had always been a Democrat. He believed in government by the people, for the people. He was a Mason and for many years was worshipful master of Greensburg Lodge No. 36, which had charge of the burial ceremony.

An incident in the life of Doctor Bracken is probably proper to relate here. He was devoted to his profession, lodge, church and other duties, and not disposed to sacrifice any of them to the requirements of society. Dressing reluctantly for a function of this kind, he said to his wife, "Mother, I would rather ride ten miles than go." A call at the door gave him the opportunity to miss the party and see the patient, sure enough ten miles away. A ride through the cold dark night, letting down fences, wandering across fields with doubts as to his course, he finally arrived at his destination, to be detained several hours to relieve a patient in distress. Later, the doctor said that while he had failed to meet his friends at the party, the satisfaction of having relieved pain and suffering and saved a life more than recompensed him and that he would do it again under similar circumstances.

Dr. L. C. Bunker was born in Cayuga county, New York, on October 21, 1821. His parents moved to Oberlin, Ohio, when he was a small lad,

and went from there to Branch county, Michigan, in 1833. Later they settled in Boone county, Indiana, and in 1848 located in Ripley county. While in Michigan, L. C. Bunker had the unusual experience of associating himself with an Indian tribe and in two years became quite intimate with Indian life and lore, being able to converse intelligently with the red men of the Michigan wilderness. At the breaking out of the Mexican war, in 1846, he enlisted in the second Illinois Regiment, that joined Taylor's army and marched to the city of Mexico. He began the study of medicine in 1845, in the office of Doctor Wright, at Belvidere, Illinois, and after his return from the war, he took a course of lectures in the Rush Medical College, in Chicago; in 1852, he graduated from the Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati, Ohio. After practicing several years in Ripley county, he removed to Greensburg in 1865.

Doctor Bunker married Alvira E. Alden, of Ripley county, on November 15, 1849. Eight children were born, five of whom survive: Mrs. Lucy E. Montgomery, of Chattanooga, Tennessee; Henry A., a physician of New York city; George, engaged in business in Dover, Delaware; Mrs. May Wise, of Brooklyn, New York, and Arthur Clifford, an electrician, of Mount Clair, New Jersey. One son, William, a physician at Winston, Illinois, died in 1892. Doctor Bunker's first wife died some twenty-five years ago, and, on April 5, 1899, he married Mrs. Ida V. McElvain.

Doctor Bunker practiced medicine more than fifty-three years in Ripley and Decatur counties. He was a very successful physician and surgeon and kept up with the advanced knowledge of the profession. His former patrons speak with commendation of his care for the interest and comfort of his patients—always attentive, kind and sympathetic. Doctor Bunker was a member of the Baptist church and when possible an attendant at the services of the church. He died on his farm near Greensburg, on August 26, 1907, and his remains rest in South Park cemetery.

Dr. Cornelius Cain was born on August 1, 1808, near Dover, Delaware, and died on June 28, 1903, in this county, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Orlando Hamilton. His father settled in Brookville, Franklin county, about 1827. Doctor Cain studied medicine with Dr. Rufus Haymond, in Brookville. He began the practice of medicine at Laurel, and in 1857 he removed to Clarksburg, Decatur county. He was married to Eliza Clements in 1836. To them were born ten children, of whom seven lived to rear families. Two sons, Albert and John, are Methodist preachers. Albert resides in New Jersey, and John is in the North Indiana conference. Homer was engaged in business and died in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1893. Another



son, Elmer Ellsworth, who was a teacher, died in 1890. The daughters were Mrs. Orlando Hamilton, Nancy, the widow of F. M. Smith, living at Muncie, and Mrs. Emma Bell, living at Upland.

Doctor Cain continued in practice from 1857 to 1898, forty-one years, in Clarksburg, when he retired to reside with his daughter, Mrs. Orlando Hamilton, near Kingston, where he lived until his death. Doctor Cain was a frequent attendant at the Decatur County Medical Society. He often reported cases in minute detail, showing that he was a close observer and good diagnostician. He reported several cases of colitis (dysentery) treated with castor oil and tincture of opium successfully, which was not the usual treatment at that day, neither was the treatment in vogue nearly so successful as his.

Dr. Abram Carter came from Kentucky to Greensburg prior to 1847, and was present at the organization of perhaps the first medical society on January 25, 1847. His daughter was the wife of Dr. George W. New, surgeon of a regiment of Indiana volunteers. She was a very efficient nurse and was with her husband during his service, being a great favorite with the members of the regiment. Doctor Carter probably died in this county.

Dr. Cornelius A. Covert, the son of Samuel Covert, was born in Harmony, Butler county, on June 1, 1831, and died in Greensburg, Indiana, March 29, 1910. At the solicitation of Dr. John W. Moody, he came to Decatur county during the Civil War, from Williamstown, on the Decatur-Rush county line, where he had been only a few years in practice. He read medicine in his native town of Harmony with Dr. Lusk, took a medical course at Cleveland, Ohio, and, in 1869, a post-graduate course in the Chicago Medical College. Doctor Covert was in continuous practice from the time he came to Decatur county, except a few instances when he returned to his old home in Pennsylvania, and when he was absent in Chicago in 1869. Doctor Covert was a safe and conservative physician, always attentive to the most minute detail, and never "gave a case up" as long as the patient breathed, and hardly then. He believed in "feeding," had confidence in remedies, was successful in his surgical cases, and had the confidence of his patrons to an unusual degree, because he had confidence in himself and the remedial means he used. If duty called him, he seemed indifferent to pain. In one of many instances he made daily visits to see cases under his care after he had been thrown out of his buggy and two ribs broken and other injuries received. He continued to do so after all effort to prevail on him to desist had failed. Dr. Covert came to Williamstown prior to the fall of 1858, probably in 1857. None of his family resides in Decatur

county. One son, Samuel, lives in Dayton, Ohio, and another, named for his old friend, Dr. J. W. Moody, resides in Indianapolis.

The late Dr. Francis M. Daily, of Milhousen, was born in Ireland on March 16, 1842, and came to America with his parents in 1847. He was the son of Dr. Michael Daily, who practiced in this county from the time of his arrival in America in 1847 until his death. Dr. Francis M. Daily was married on April 26, 1865, to Catherine Conwell, of Westport. He began the practice of medicine in 1868 at Milhousen, Dr. John Hicks being in practice there at that time.

Dr. Richard J. Depew was born in 1815. He practiced medicine in St. Omer, and later in St. Paul, Decatur county, for many years. He was a sturdy, robust man, physically able for the hardships of the pioneer physician. For many years his professional trips were made on horseback. He was a bachelor until late in life. He was a staunch Republican and was always ready to defend the principles of the party. Indifferent and neglectful in keeping his accounts, if he needed money, which was seldom, he would call on some of his patrons and "jump" accounts, indifferent as to whether his was too much or little. If too much, it was the fault of the patron, who "ought to have been sick more." It was his way of "squaring books." He moved to Indianapolis after marriage, and died there in 1879. He left a large bequest.

Dr. Jesse M. Gillespie was, perhaps, the first physician to locate in Greensburg, as he was here prior to the year 1825. He built a brick residence, the second one in the town, in 1826, on the south side of the square. He died in 1833, and his widow married Mr. Thomson.

Dr. John Y. Hitt was born in Oldham county, Kentucky, on February 9, 1832. He studied medicine and graduated at the University of Kentucky in 1853. He came to Decatur county in 1854, to follow his profession. He was married to Martha Logan, daughter of Samuel Logan, Sr., in 1853. Two sons were born to this union, Dr. Sherman B. and Joel, both deceased. When the Seventeenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, was organized, Dr. J. Y. Hitt was appointed surgeon and served with Wilder's brigade. When the first board of examining surgeons for pensions was organized for Decatur county, Doctor Hitt was appointed as secretary by Commissioner of Pensions John C. Black, on February 11, 1886, serving in that capacity up to May 8, 1889. Doctor Hitt continued in practice in Greensburg up to a few years before his death. He was surgeon for the Big Four Railroad Company for a number of years, and the Grand Army of the Republic, department of Indiana, for two years. Doctor Hitt, with short intervals of absence, prac-

ticed medicine in Decatur county about fifty-five years. He died in Greensburg and was buried in South Park cemetery. Mrs. Martha Hitt also is dead.

Dr. Sherman B. Hitt was born in Sullivan, Illinois, January 10, 1854, and died in Greensburg. He was the son of Dr. John Y. and Martha (Logan) Hitt. Except a very few years, he always resided in Greensburg. He graduated in the Greensburg public schools, later attended Notre Dame Institution two years. He attended the Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia, and graduated in the Ohio Medical College in 1886. Doctor Hitt was a member of the city council for about twenty years. He was also secretary of the Greensburg board of health for several years. He belonged to the Greensburg Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Dr. Sherman Hitt married Mrs. Mary Cline, of Greensburg, May 9, 1893, and one daughter was born to them.

Dr. Sherman B. Hitt, who spent more than fifty years of his life in Greensburg, was known by almost everybody. He was neat in his dress, always tidy and was large, portly and stylish. As a citizen, he was popular, as shown by his frequent election to city offices. As a physician, he was up to the times in his profession. His death, on September 25, 1911, was sudden and a great shock to those who knew him and greatly regretted by his friends and patrons. A daughter, Gladys M., was married to Louis S. Linville on May 13, 1915.

Dr. Silas Cooke was born in Montville, New Jersey, in 1809. He graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City in 1832. He was married the same year to Hannah Maria Mills, of Morristown, New Jersey, and commenced the practice of medicine in Boonton, in the same state. In 1844, he removed to Rahway, New Jersey, and in 1866 to Greensburg, Indiana, where he died in 1882. Doctor Cooke was a courteous gentleman; in his practice he was ethical, conforming to the rules and usages of the profession, and was highly respected by his associates in the profession for his qualifications and polished manners. The doctor's family consisted of wife, two daughters and one son. All are deceased except Mrs. Marshall Grover, of Greensburg.

Dr. J. Mills Cooke was born in Boonton, New Jersey, in 1835, graduated from Princeton College in 1855, and later from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York City. He began the practice of medicine in Toledo, Ohio. He was surgeon in the Twenty-fourth Ohio Regiment from 1862, and was taken prisoner at Chickamauga with all the medical corps and sent to Libby prison. Upon his release he rejoined his regiment and was

with Sherman on his march to the sea. At the close of the war he returned to Toledo and in 1876 he came to Adams, Decatur county, where he died in 1884. He was a son of Dr. Silas Cooke and brother of Mrs. Marshall Grover, of Greensburg.

Dr. Thomas Johnson was born in Oswego county, New York, on January 14, 1827, and came west with his parents in 1838. He was a sophomore when he quit the now DePauw University to begin the study of medicine, which he did under Dr. I. P. Kilcher, of Laurel. He graduated at the Cincinnati Medical College in 1865. He had, however, practiced before this and had located at Clarksburg, where he remained until 1882. At this time he removed to Greensburg and practiced his profession successfully. After the election of President Harrison, he was, in May, 1889, appointed by Commissioner of Pensions James Tanner on the board of pension examining surgeons for Decatur county, on which he served four and a half years. He was a Mason, having belonged to Decatur Lodge No. 36 and Chapter No. 8. He was a member of the Methodist church in Greensburg. He was married on January 1, 1854, in Fayette county, and two married daughters survive. The mother died in October, 1870. On May 28, 1871, he married Sarah F. Gest, who survives her husband, who died in Clarksburg.

Dr. Elliott W. Leech came to Milford from Cincinnati, Ohio, about the year 1856, and entered in partnership with Dr. James O'Byrne, which association continued until he removed to St. Paul in 1862. From there he was commissioned assistant surgeon in the One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Resigning his commission, he returned to St. Paul, and later, in 1865, returned to Milford to resume the practice at that place. In 1876, he removed to Shelbyville and followed his profession. While at that place he was appointed a member of the board of examining surgeons for pensions, which he filled with credit until the reorganization of the board. Doctor Leech was a very successful physician, made many friends and had the utmost confidence of his patrons. He died in Shelbyville, leaving a wife, one daughter and two sons.

Dr. Lewis McAllister and brother, Lucius, also a physician, came from New Jersey and located at Milford as early as 1840. The latter moved to Crawford county, Illinois, married a widow, Mrs. Alfred Lagow, and died there. Dr. Lewis McAllister, when he came to Milford, was apparently but a boy. He remained there until the spring of 1865, when he removed to Windfall, Howard county, Indiana, where he engaged in practice of medicine up to his death, in 1890, being in active practice more than fifty years.



Doctor McAllister believed in calomel, antimony and bleeding, a heroic practitioner, even in his day. He was a man of strong convictions and a Republican in politics. Dr. John L. Wooden was a student of Dr. McAllister. The latter was a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, attending the meeting of January 25, 1847, the first in the county of which any record is found. He married Rachel Fugit about 1850. There were no children. She was an active and working member of the Methodist church.

Dr. Samuel Maguire was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, November 25, 1818. His father, James Maguire, moved with his family, consisting of the wife and eight children, to Mason county, Kentucky, in 1831. He was the contractor who built the old Maysville and Lexington turnpike, which is said to be the best in the world. In 1832 they moved to Fleming, an adjoining county, and lived near the one-time popular old Blue Lick Springs. Doctor Maguire's education was obtained at the famous Maysville Academy, conducted by Rand and Richardson. This academy claimed the distinction of having for its pupils Gen. William H. Nelson, Gen. U. S. Grant, Hon. H. Watterson and many others of historic fame. Samuel Maguire graduated in medicine at Transylvania University and began the practice in Flemingsburg, Kentucky, in 1840. In 1842 he married Eliza R. Fleming, the granddaughter of John D. Fleming, after whom the county and town were named. To this union three sons and one daughter were born, John J., William F., Samuel and Ida Louise. The daughter survives and is now the wife of Judge James K. Ewing, of Greensburg.

In 1854, Doctor Maguire moved to Missouri, where he remained six years, and while there he served two terms in the Missouri Senate. In 1860, he returned to Flemingsburg, just when the South was on the brink of war. He at once took a bold stand for the National Union. Being gifted as a public speaker, he endeavored to persuade the people to stand by the flag. His position was one of great personal danger. He was denounced, threatened and persecuted, but his fealty to the government was never lessened, and he remained steadfast in his loyalty to what he believed a just cause. He enlisted in the Tenth Kentucky Cavalry, and was commissioned assistant surgeon. Afterwards he served as surgeon in the Forty-fifth Kentucky Mounted Infantry with the rank of major. The war over, he returned to his old Kentucky home, to find that many who had once delighted to call him their friend and family physician were now bitter enemies. His wife died soon afterward and he decided to turn his back on the scenes that had once been dear to him and seek a new home in Greensburg, Indiana, taking with him his youngest son, Samuel, and his daughter, Ida Louise.

In 1872 he married Mrs. Bella Willett, of Louisville, Kentucky. To this union two sons were born, Herbert Cortez and Neil Gillespie. In 1891, he moved, with his wife and two younger sons, to Louisville, Kentucky, where he died from paralysis on August 10, 1892. He was laid to rest in beautiful Crown Hill cemetery.

During Dr. Maguire's long residence in Greensburg he made many warm friends. He stood high in his chosen profession; was a high Mason; a leading elder in the Christian church and a prominent Grand Army man. His activities were ceaseless, but in whatever circle one found him, he was always the same courteous, fair-minded Christian gentleman, with a sterling integrity and advocacy for the right.

Dr. John W. Moody, a pioneer physician, became a resident of Greensburg in 1839. He was born in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, on June 12, 1816. He was one of the four delegates to the convention from Decatur county who were present at the formation of the present State Medical Society (now association), June 6, 1849, at Indianapolis.

Among some papers found in 1865, left by Dr. Lewis McAllister, formerly of Milford, Indiana, was an article by Dr. J. W. Moody, read before the state medical society on "Epidemic Dysentery." There was no date to the paper, but it must have been written as early as 1851 or 1852, as a very fatal epidemic prevailed in this county about that time, and the doctor was in the midst of it. He was a regular attendant at the meetings of the State Medical Society up to his death, and discussed, with great ability, any and all subjects coming before the society. As a practitioner he was careful, skillful, discreet and successful. For a number of years he was a member of the board of trustees of the state hospital for the insane. Among the doctor's duties, he was often called on to examine applicants for certificates to teach in the public schools. An applicant got a certificate that read: "This woman can read a little and write a little." It is not known if she taught.

Doctor Moody was a Republican. A safe and discreet adviser, he was often consulted by Governor Morton and others in his position in his party.

Doctor Moody was married to Martha Howland, daughter of Dr. John M. Howland, who died in Brookville, Indiana, January 11, 1858. There were two sons. After the doctor's death, on August 27, 1867, Mrs. Moody and one son removed to New York city. She was an authoress of note, an entertaining conversationalist and a dignified and beautiful woman.

Dr. Theophilus E. F. Miller was born in Buffalo, New York, February 4, 1852, and died in Westport on May 26, 1908. He came to Milford, Decatur county, Indiana, early in 1884, direct from the Hahnemann Medical Col-

lege, of Chicago, Illinois. His predecessor, an eclectic and homeopathic, Dr. James O'Byrne, after more than twenty-two years' practice, had made an opening for a physician of the school, from which Doctor Miller had recently graduated. Doctor Miller was of German parentage (Lutherans) and came to Chicago with his parents about 1855. He attended the schools of that city and lived there up to his coming to Milford, where he remained in the practice of medicine for about two years. Doctor Miller was a firm believer in the *similia similibus curantur* theory of his brother physicians of that order and practiced it without deviation or concession. While in Milford, he made many friends and patrons, was a bachelor, wore a Prince Albert coat, neat and always well dressed, gentlemanly and respected by everyone who knew him. In 1886 he moved to Westport, in this county, where he had a lucrative practice up to his death, which was regretted by his many friends and patrons. Doctor Miller was married to Mrs. Nannie Cann in January, 1895. She died on June 10, 1915.

Dr. George W. New was a graduate of the Ohio Medical College, at Cincinnati, in the class of 1839-40. He located in Greensburg and was engaged in practice until 1859. He was a member of the Decatur County Medical Society on January 25, 1847, and was a delegate from Decatur county to the convention at Indianapolis, June 12, 1849, that formed the present state medical association. In 1859 he removed to Indianapolis to enlarge his field for surgical work, as he was specially qualified as a surgeon. This was recognized by Governor Morton, who commissioned him surgeon of the Seventh Indiana Regiment of Volunteer Infantry in 1861, he serving three years. In 1864 Governor Morton, having confidence in his integrity and qualifications, sent him to New Orleans as military agent for Indiana.

After the war he was for two years examiner of drugs in the New Orleans custom house, showing his standing with the federal government. Doctor New was a man of fine presence and general accomplishments. He died in Indianapolis in 1891, aged seventy-two years. Mrs. New accompanied her husband and rendered very efficient service as a nurse, endearing herself by her kindness and interest in many ways. She was a daughter of Dr. Abram Carter, one of the early physicians of Greensburg.

Dr. James O'Byrne, eclectic and homeopath, was born in Ireland in 1820. He came with his parents to America, locating near Brookville, Franklin county, Indiana, in 1832. He married Ann D. Moore in the year 1840. He moved to Milford, Decatur county, in 1851, where he practiced medicine up to 1873, when he and his family and the families of two of his sons removed to Carroll county, Missouri. He practiced medicine at that place

up to his death, in 1896. Doctor O'Bryne was a successful physician, made many friends, and had a large practice up to the time of his removal.

Dr. Uriah G. Reeves was born in Warren, Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1820, and died in Milford in 1882. He was educated at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, after which he taught school at Shelbyville and Liberty, Indiana. He was married to Jane Craig on February 28, 1846. He read medicine with Dr. William Armington. He began practice at St. Omer, remaining there five years, and then followed his profession at Greensburg from 1860 to 1863, when he removed to Milford, continuing in practice there up to his death, in 1882, from cerebro-spinal meningitis, which prevailed at that time. Doctor Reeves was a local preacher in the Methodist church and was always ready and willing to serve in that capacity. He was a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, a good debater and contributed several papers of merit on medical subjects. He was also an Odd Fellow, in which order he passed all the chairs and was elected a representative to the grand lodge from Centenary Lodge No. 535. As a member of the investigating and other committees, he was fair, unbiased and just. His family consisted of a wife, four daughters and one son. The latter died in 1866, aged about eight years. Doctor Reeves was successful in his practice and was always willing to serve the needy, regardless of compensation. He could do more practice on a small quantity of medicine than almost any other doctor. His remains rest in Milford cemetery.

Dr. William F. Reiley was born on April 21, 1828. He received a common-school education and taught school several years. He read medicine with Dr. William Armington, beginning practice in 1854. On February 8, 1859, he was married to Sarah E. Hood, daughter of William Hood, a soldier of the War of 1812 and an early settler in Decatur county. To this union two children were born, Anne H., who married Sanford Darrah, now living at San Diego, California, and one, the youngest, who died in infancy. Doctor Reiley had an extensive practice in all directions from Sardina before, during and after the Civil War. He was president of the first board of examining surgeons for pensions, under President Cleveland, with Dr. J. Y. Hitt and J. H. Alexander. In his association with men of the profession he was found always polite, patient, sympathetic and considerate in the interest of the soldier, never being able to do as much for them as he desired. He never desired office, as his time was engaged professionally, but he was prevailed upon and elected joint senator from Decatur, Jennings and Scott counties in the state senate for one or more terms. He was a Democrat and highly respected by all parties. He died at Sardina,



this county, November 21, 1895. The list of graduates of the Medical College of Ohio shows that W. F. Reiley, of Indiana, graduated in 1858.

Dr. A. S. Remy was born near Brookville, Indiana, October 16, 1819. After passing his boyhood on a farm and receiving a common-school education, he entered the Ohio Medical College, at Cincinnati, from which he was a graduate. In 1844 he was united in marriage to Almirah Scoby, and moved to Zenas, Jennings county, where he engaged in the practice of medicine. To this union were born three sons and one daughter. In 1856 he bought a farm near Greensburg, Decatur county, and engaged in farming, together with the practice of medicine. His wife died in 1862, and the following year he was married to Annie Kluge. To this union two children were born, one son and one daughter, the daughter dying in infancy. Doctor Remy was a member of the Presbyterian church and a member of the Masonic fraternity. He died March 31, 1890.

Dr. Alfred Scoby Remy was born on January 29, 1847, at Zenas, Jennings county, and died at Zenas on June 20, 1882, being buried at South Park cemetery, Greensburg. He graduated at the Ohio Medical College in 1869. He was married to Anna DeBolt on February 14, 1869. There were four children born to this union: Harry; Nellie, who died in Kansas in 1873; Mrs. Ella Carter, living, and Carl, who died in Greensburg in 1893. Doctor Remy practiced medicine in Jennings and Decatur counties.

Dr. William H. Remy was born on October 30, 1850, at Zenas, Jennings county, Indiana. He was educated at Butlerville College, Butlerville, Indiana, after which he entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati. He began the practice of medicine in 1875 at Millhousen, Decatur county. In 1878 he was married to Della Carper. He continued in the practice of his chosen profession until 1886, when he moved to Kansas and engaged in farming.

Dr. John Ritchie removed from Greensburg to Milford, Decatur county, at an early day and was one of the first physicians to locate at that village in the forties. One of his daughters married a Methodist minister, Rev. Landy Haven. Another daughter, Sallie, married Lieut. A. J. Hungate, and with her husband moved to Topeka, Kansas, in 1866. Doctor Ritchie was most probably a member of the medical society organized on January 25, 1847.

Doctor Edmund Swem was born near Camden, New Jersey, on August 12, 1810, and died in Greensburg on March 4, 1898. He received his medical education at Cincinnati and began the practice of medicine at Peru, Indiana, later practicing at Mooresville. He came to Greensburg about

1846. He married Martha Gibson, daughter of Israel Gibson, an early resident of Greensburg and a soldier of the War of 1812. His remains rest in South Park cemetery. A plain marble slab marks the Gibson grave. He was a Mason, which was noted on the headstone. Doctor Swem and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary several years before his death, in 1898. Mrs. Swem survived her husband. Rev. Edmund Hez Swem, pastor of the Second Baptist church, Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Ale Howard, of Greensburg, are the only children surviving. Doctor Swem was president of the Decatur County Medical Society in 1869, and was re-elected in 1871. He was a regular attendant at the meetings and filled other offices up to the time he was unable to attend owing to the infirmities of age. He was a delegate to the State Medical Association several times. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and his pew was seldom vacant at its meetings. Doctor Swem was a conservative and cautious physician; he advocated small doses; he had faith in the recuperative powers of nature; he was not very favorable to calomel, as he had seen the ill effects of its abuse. He was very neat in his dress, quiet in demeanor, always polite, unassuming and gentlemanly.

There was also a Doctor Teal, who lived in Greensburg and who died in 1833.

Dr. J. L. Underwood came to Milford about 1856. He married a Miss Avery, who lived on a farm on Flat Rock, Shelby county. There were two daughters. He removed from Milford to St. Paul early in the Civil War period. He died from cancer of the stomach and was buried at Ogden cemetery, near Waldron. He was a popular and successful physician and had many friends at both Milford and St. Paul.

Dr. Newbery Wheeldon practiced medicine in this county prior to 1860, following what was then known as the Thomsonian system, and called "steam doctors" by some in derision. These doctors used lobelia to control fevers, colds and almost any disease "flesh is heir to." Their system was mostly by stimulation, profuse sweating and discarded all mineral preparations as used by the allopaths in that day. The abuse of calomel by some of the ultra-allopaths, who believed that salivation (ptyalism) was the only salvation in certain conditions, made patrons for this class of doctors, and they made all the capital possible out of it. Doctor Wheeldon was perhaps the last doctor to practice that system in the county, as the eclectics have superseded them here.

Dr. M. H. Williams-Letts, eclectic, was a member of the board of examining surgeons for pensions with J. H. Alexander and W. H. Wooden.

organized on May 19, 1897, and served on the board until June 19, 1901, when he resigned and removed to Indianapolis. He was a careful, conscientious examiner always ready for the duties of his office and pleasant and obliging in his relations with others.

Dr. John L. Wooden was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, May 17, 1826, and came with his parents to Decatur county, Indiana, in October, 1830. In 1848 he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Louis McAllester, at Milford, Decatur county. In 1853 he began the practice of medicine in Andersonville, Franklin county, and continued there up to 1859, when he entered the Medical College of Ohio, and on March 1, 1860, received his degree of Doctor of Medicine. His first military service was with the Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry. On the formation of the Sixty-eighth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, he was commissioned surgeon of that regiment, on August 29, 1862, having rendered efficient service in this organization. With his regiment, he was taken prisoner of war at Mumfordsville, Kentucky, in September, 1862. He was exchanged in November, 1862, but was again taken prisoner while in charge of the division hospital during the battle of Chickamauga, September 20, 1863. He was sent to Libby prison and remained a prisoner until exchanged three months later. He acted as brigade surgeon in General Willich's command and was an active member of the medical staff up to the end of the Civil War. Doctor Wooden was the first pension examining surgeon for Decatur county, and remained in charge up to the appointment of the first board of examining surgeons for pensions, under the Cleveland administration. His services in that capacity were eminently satisfactory to the soldiers, and duly appreciated by the pension department. Doctor Wooden was a regular attendant at the County Medical Society and State Medical Association and was a willing and working member in both. His reports of cases were always interesting, instructive and inspiring. His diagnosis of cases seemed to be by intuition, so prompt and so generally correct were they. As a consultant he was helpful and tactful, and gave confidence and hope to the patient. As a surgeon he was cautious and skillful. He paid special attention to the details, antiseptically, in preparation for operative surgery, and hence his general success. Doctor Wooden was of Methodist parentage and had been a member since early in life. For many years prior to his death he was a leading Mason and was master of Concordia Lodge of Greensburg at the time of his death, his service as master embracing the following periods: 1873-81, 1883-4, 1886. As a soldier, he seldom failed to meet with his comrades of Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic, of which he had

been commander. He was also senior vice-commander of the Department of Indiana of the Grand Army of the Republic. Doctor Wooden's death occurred on Sunday, November 28, 1886, to the regret and surprise of his many friends. His indomitable energy and active life was more than his enfeebled condition could bear. He left his wife, Mrs. Sarah Guest Wooden, and four children—Dr. W. H. Wooden, now deceased; Elmer E. Wooden, Mrs. Edgar Hamilton and Mrs. Ida Moss—to mourn his sudden death.

Dr. William Herschel Wooden was born in the village of Milford, Decatur county, Indiana, August 12, 1857, and died in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 23, 1903. In 1867, he came to Greensburg with his father's family, where he pursued his studies in the public schools up to his graduation in the high school in 1873. He then entered, for a classical course, the State University at Bloomington. In 1876 he began the study of medicine with his father, Dr. John L. Wooden, and graduated from the Medical College of Ohio in 1879, eminently well qualified for the practice of medicine and surgery. On his return to Greensburg he entered his father's office as a partner in his extensive and lucrative practice. Prior to 1882 he was elected secretary of the Decatur County Medical Society, and was an efficient officer for several years. In keeping the records and abstracts of important cases reported by the members, he was accurate, bringing out the important point in each case, not infrequently taking part in the discussion to cover in his report real deficiencies in the discussion. He seldom failed to be at the meetings of the State Medical Society, in which he took great interest. Doctor Wooden continued in a successful practice in this city up to 1888, when he had a call from parties who knew his qualifications and appointed him civil engineer on the Maple Leaf railroad through Missouri and Kansas to Minneapolis, and later with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. After his return, in 1892, he was appointed secretary of the county board of health, continuing up to December, 1894, his professional business precluding his continuance in that office any longer. In May, 1897, Doctor Wooden was appointed secretary of the board of examining surgeons for pensions in Greensburg, serving in that capacity up to November, 1899, when, because of the pressure of professional business, he resigned, to the regret of his associates on the board, Doctors Williams and Alexander, who always found him accurate, truthful and careful in his examinations and scrupulously neat and correct in his papers. Dr. Herschel Wooden was a Mason, and served as master of his lodge in 1892 to 1893 and 1894. He also belonged to the Knights of Pythias, the Sons of Veterans and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He continued in the practice of medi-



cine and surgery up to his fatal sickness in 1903. His mother, brother and two sisters survive and reside in Greensburg. His remains rest in South Park cemetery, Greensburg, alongside his father.

Dr. James Brown Bracken was a graduate of a Philadelphia college of medicine and practiced medicine for many years with his father, Dr. William Bracken, of Rush and Decatur counties, though the latter part of his life was devoted to the care of his father after he had retired from active life, owing to ill health. Dr. James B. Bracken was a man well read in his profession and other fields of literature and had qualities that made him firm friends and admirers. His opinions were positive and expressed openly either to advance a cause or oppose one in which he was interested or advocated. He died in Greensburg, October 31, 1913.

Dr. Jesse Wakefield Rucker, grandson of Dr. William Bracken and nephew of Dr. James B. Bracken, obtained his degree from the Medical College of Ohio (Cincinnati) in 1885 and practiced medicine in Cincinnati and in Shelbyville, Indiana, until 1902, when he moved to Greensburg, his native city. While he has not been actively engaged in the practice in Decatur county, he holds a physician's certificate or license and has been often consulted by brother physicians, being considered a fine diagnostician. At present he is editor of the *New Era*, a straight Democratic newspaper.

#### MISCELLANEOUS PHYSICIANS.

In addition to the physicians above mentioned, the names of several others have been located, but little is known of any of them. Austin Marlow, known as a "chronic doctor," practiced at Newburg, Adams and Greensburg. Doctor Pettigrew practiced at Newburg and Forest Hill. Doctor Riker was also at Newburg for some years. Dr. John L. Brown was practicing at St. Omer in 1876. Dr. George F. Chittenden was at Milford in 1858, and later become surgeon of the Sixteenth Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Dr. J. K. Smalley, of Forest Hill, had a large practice in the seventies in that community. Dr. John Wheeldon, an eclectic, was practicing in Greensburg in 1866. Two other eclectic physicians of Greensburg of half a century ago were Doctors Falcomberry and Reiley. One of the most prominent of the early Catholic physicians was Dr. Michael Daily, of Irish parentage, who lived on a farm south of Greensburg. Another Catholic physician of the county, who died some years ago, was Dr. Francis M. Daily, of Millhousen, who was well educated and built up a large practice

in Millhousen and the surrounding country. One of the best known of the younger physicians of Greensburg, who was accidentally killed a few years ago, was Dr. James Bracken, a son of Dr. William Bracken. He graduated from Ohio Medical College and upon his death, on October 31, 1913, his body was cremated at his wish. There have undoubtedly been many other physicians in the county, but they have not come under the observation of the writer. No effort has been made to touch upon the careers of the living members of the profession. Their work speaks for them.

#### THE FIRST DECATUR COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The first medical society of Decatur county was formed on January 25, 1847, with Drs. A. Carter, of Greensburg; John Ritchie, perhaps of Milford; William Armington, of Greensburg; John L. Armington, of Greensburg; George W. New, of Greensburg; Sam C. Bartholomew, of Greensburg; Lewis McAllister, of Milford, and William Ardery as charter members. A short biography of each of these men may be found among the list of doctors given elsewhere in this chapter. Two years later Joseph C. Ardery, of Milford; John L. Armington, John W. Moody and George W. New, both of Greensburg, were sent to Indianapolis, where they helped to organize, on June 6, 1849, the State Medical Society.

#### TRAINED NURSES.

The Legislature of 1905 passed an act providing for the registration of trained nurses in the counties where they followed their profession. Since that time the official records of Decatur county show that seven nurses have been registered in the county, as follow: Mary Wood Weaver, 1906; Myrtle O. Smiley, 1906; Mary Donnell Stewart Erdmann, 1906; Mrs. Hannah H. Evans Donnell, 1906; Josephine Wright, 1906; Roxie Parker, 1909.

#### OPTICIANS.

The registration of opticians in the various counties of the state has been a legal requirement since 1907. During the past eight years six opticians have registered in the county: Eustace Foley, 1907; John Edward Russell, 1907; Philip H. Spohn, 1907; Cassius C. McCoy, 1907; James M. Burk, 1908; Walter E. Woolley, 1908.

## PENSION BOARD OF DECATUR COUNTY.

The pension examiner consisted of one man at first, with an assistant, but the assistant received no remuneration for his services. Dr. John L. Wooden was appointed as first examiner by Gen. John C. Black, and Doctor Hershel Wooden served as his assistant. On February 11, 1886, the board of examiners was created. Drs. John H. Alexander, John Y. Hitt and William F. Reiley served on this first board. Doctor Hitt was chosen as secretary. Certain days were set apart in which to make the examinations. The examiners received two dollars for each examination up to five, and after five only one dollar was received.

On May 8, 1899, a new board was appointed as follows: Drs. Thomas Johnson, John Schofield and Samuel McGuire. Doctor McGuire soon resigned and Doctor Alexander was appointed to fill the vacancy. In November, 1893, after the Democrats had regained power, a new board was appointed and consisted of the following members: Drs. James M. Wood, R. M. Thomas, who was appointed secretary, and Benjamin F. White. This board served until the election of William McKinley, when the following board took its place, on May 19, 1897: Dr. John Alexander, who was elected secretary, William H. Wooden and M. H. Williams, who was elected treasurer. Doctor Wooden resigned on November 23, 1899. This vacancy was filled by Dr. R. M. Thomas, who was elected president. In June, 1901, Doctor Williams resigned, and on July 3, of the same year, Dr. D. W. Weaver was appointed to fill this vacancy until April 19, 1905, after which the following board was elected and served one year: Drs. T. B. Gullifer, William R. Thomas and William Hause. They were succeeded by Drs. Beal, of Clarksburg; Eden T. Reiley, of Greensburg, and William Hause, of Westport.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### NEWSPAPERS OF DECATUR COUNTY.

Newspaper men have frequently tried to sum up, in a pithy paragraph, the function of the newspaper and thousands of articles have been written on its influence on modern life. Perhaps no more apt summary of the place of the newspaper in our civilization of today has ever been written than that of Joseph H. Finn, a newspaper man of Chicago, and delivered by him as part of an address before the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World in the spring of 1915. His apostrophe follows:

"I AM THE NEWSPAPER."

"Born of the deep, daily need of a nation—I am the Voice of Now—the incarnate spirit of the Times—Monarch of Things that Are.

"My 'cold type' burns with the fireblood of human action. I am fed by arteries of wire that girdle the earth. I drink from the cup of every living joy and sorrow. I know not day nor night nor season. I know not death, yet I am born again with every morn—with every moon—with every twilight. I leap into fresh being with every new world's event.

"Those who created me cease to be. The brains and heart's blood that nourish me go the way of human dissolution. Yet I live on—and on.

"I am majestic in my strength—sublime in my power—terrible in my potentialities—yet as democratic as the ragged boy who sells me for a penny.

"I am the consort of kings—the partner of capital—the brother of toil. The inspiration of the hopeless—the right arm of the needy—the champion of the oppressed—the conscience of the criminal. I am the epitome of the world's Comedy and Tragedy.

"My responsibility is infinite. I speak, and the world stops to listen. I say the word, and battle flames the horizon. I counsel peace, and the war lords obey. I am greater than any individual—more powerful than any group. I am the dynamic force of Public Opinion. Rightly directed, I am the creator of confidence; a builder of happiness in living. I am the teacher of patriotism.



"I am the hands of the clock of time—the clarion voice of civilization. I am the newspaper."

It is often a difficult matter for the conscientious newspaper editor to discriminate between his duty to the public and his duty to the individual—to determine what should be printed and what should be withheld. In determining this, he is often misjudged and charged with an attempt to shield one misdemeanant while he exposes another. Sometimes he is accused of withholding certain information from the public through mercenary motives. It is not the province of the modern newspaper to be the mouthpiece of the scandal-monger, nor has it any right to suppress information which the public is entitled to possess. The tendency of a newspaper should be for uplift, for the common good. It should hold prominently before its readers that which is best for the community and best worthy of emulation. News that, if printed, would do more harm than good, the modern editor consigns to the waste-basket.

The early editor had a great many difficulties to surmount in getting his white paper. Roads were bad, collections worse and paper could be procured only for cash. On August 15, 1846, the editor of the *Standard* announced: "There will be no paper next week. We are out of money, out of paper and we can't and won't buy on credit." The paper did not appear for two weeks. The next issue was almost exclusively devoted to a discussion of a forthcoming debate between Rev. W. Terrill of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Jacob Wright, of the Christian church upon a religious topic. After a considerable amount of sparring between the reverend gentlemen, regarding details of the debate, the affair was called off.

On account of the scarcity of money in ante-bellum days, the editor usually received pay for his paper in trade, produce and anything which subscribers, not needing, were willing to give him. Sometimes the editor was forced to run up the "S. O. S." sign and summon assistance. Witness the following clipping, from an 1847 Greensburg paper:

"Very Late and Important.—We are just out of wood and would be very much pleased to receive a few loads immediately. Wood that is dry and would burn well in a stove would suit us best."

A striking feature of the early newspapers of Indiana was their reckless use of adjectives in writing of those who differed with them along political lines. A few specific instances from Greensburg papers will illustrate the point. In 1858 the *Decatur Democrat* and the *Rushville Jacksonian* were "on the outs" on the slavery question. The former was opposed to slavery and branded the Buchanan administration as "a humbug and a swindle." The

*Jacksonian* stood for the "simon-pure" Democracy of that day. The *Standard*, referring to the bitter words that had been tossed back and forth, said, "They respectively make each other out as extremely great liars and very dirty dogs, and it gives us much pleasure in uttering the conviction that they both tell the truth." This kind of language would appear out of place in the modern newspaper. The editor of the *Standard* was a master of invective and his language in the sixties was often vitriolic to the extreme.

During war times, Decatur county editors sometimes waxed hot in criticising those who were lukewarm for the Union and once in a while laid down the law to such citizens. In 1863, when the Knights of the Golden Circle were getting very bold near Westport and were considering taking arms to resist the draft, the *Greensburg Standard* gave them the following gentle hint: "The draft will be enforced in this county though the streets run red with human gore and the torch destroy every town and village in the county. This is fully decided and can be relied upon."

#### GREENSBURG NEWSPAPERS.

In the *Greensburg Standard* of January 4, 1895, the late Orville Thompson had a history of the papers of Greensburg which covered the period from 1830, the date of the first paper, down to 1895. The historian feels that no more comprehensive article on the papers of the city can be written with the available material than that of Mr. Thompson and therefore gives his article here, verbatim:

"In the spring of 1830 Elijah Mitchell—an uncle of the writer and one of the pioneers of 1823—began the publication of a paper here styled the *Greensburg Chronicle*, and after an experience of about a year sold the outfit to Thomas Dowling, who changed the name to *The Political Clarion*. He conducted it until the close of the Clay-Jackson campaign of 1832, when he sold it to James Harvey Brown, whose editorial career was a brief one—the paper dying a very few months later of inanition.

"Dowling was a native of Ireland, of Celtic blood; a vigorous writer, who learned almost all that was then knowable, and never forgot anything, nor anyone whom he ever had known. A pleasant instance of this occurred with the writer, who was a lad of nine years when he (Dowling) left here. I did not see him until twenty years later and then, meeting him at Indianapolis, he at once recognized me and called me by name. This preliminary sketch seems to be necessary in order to correct a mistaken notion entertained by many people that the *Repository* was the first paper issued in Greensburg.

"For three years following the demise of the *Clarion* the county was without the fructifying power of the press. In the fall of 1835, my father (John Thomson), issued a prospectus for a paper to be called *The Greensburg Repository*, and, having doubts whether a partizan paper could be maintained here, despite his ardent Whig sentiments, he proposed that the paper should be a 'family newspaper, independent, but not neutral.' But in this instance, as is often the case in human affairs,

"The best laid schemes of men and mice  
Gang aft aglee."

"Scarce had the ink become dry on his prospectus, when there came one who signed his name William Vallette Coleman, bringing with him the material of a late defunct Democratic paper from Brookville, and proposed a partnership in the new enterprise. This was declined and he (Coleman) at once began the publication of a Democratic paper, *The Greensburg Courier*. This necessitated a change of base on the part of the *Repository* (not an altogether unpleasant one to the proprietor) and when its first issue appeared in the first week of December, 1835, it bore at its head the motto, 'The Union, the Constitution, and Enforcement of Laws,' and underneath, in bold faced type, there read,

For President,

GENERAL WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON,

of Ohio,

Subject to the Decision of a Whig National Convention.

"Through all its changes, both in names and proprietors, this paper has remained true to its birthday inspiration, both in its printed columns and by representatives on the battlefield, six of its editors having enlisted under Old Glory.

"And someone rises to ask what became of the *Greensburg Courier*. It survived the wintry blasts of 1835-36, but when the spring time came and the roads settled, its proprietor loaded it on a wagon and hauled it to Shelbyville. From this time until the early part of 1841 the *Repository* was the only paper in the county, Mr. Thompson continuing as owner and editor.

"During the fore part of 1841, Peter J. Bartholomew began the publication of a paper with the lumbering title of *The Chronicle of the Times*. The stress of newspaper life must have worried him, since he died a few months after he had his paper started. Philander Hamilton and James Monroe

Talbot bought the outfit in November of the same year and changed the name to the *Decatur Sentinel*. A year later the same sheet appears as the *Decatur Phoenix*, under the guidance of Israel T. Gibson. But the two papers, the *Whig Repository* and the *Democrat Phoenix*, could not both prosper with the limited patronage which they received and in November, 1843, the two were consolidated under the name of the *Repository*. Jacob W. Mills, the foreman of the *Phoenix*, had purchased that paper and he and the writer (Orville Thompson), or one or the other, continued the management of the paper until 1851.

"In the latter year, the *Repository* went into the hands of Davies Batterton and William H. Hazelrigg, William H. Rhiver being taken into the firm later. In July, 1853, it was again purchased by the writer (Orville Thompson) and conducted by him until the latter part of 1856, when it went into the hands of the former firm again. With the issue of December 26, 1856, the paper appeared as the *Decatur Republican*. In 1858 the paper was bought by J. J. Hazelrigg and George R. Rhiver. Rhiver dying in 1862, Hazelrigg continued the paper until 1863 and then sold it to Dr. S. H. Riley, J. B. Mallett and Redin B. Conover. This firm kept it until 1865 and then disposed of it to Will Pound. The changes since then have been as follow: Pound to J. J. Hazelrigg, 1868; Hazelrigg to Joseph A. McKee, 1872; McKee to George H. McKee, 1873; McKee to J. J. Hazelrigg, 1878, who with his sons conducted it until 1894, when the present owner, Luther D. Braden, became the owner and editor.

"Since 1848, under the several managements above given, the paper has borne several different names: *Decatur Clarion*, 1848-51; *Decatur Press*, 1851-58; *Decatur Republican*, 1858-65; *Greensburg Chronicle*, 1865-68; *Greensburg Standard*, 1868-1915. But with all these changes, it has sailed under the same 'old flag.'

"As the *Decatur Republican*, in 1858, it was the first among Indiana newspapers to pronounce 'For President in 1860, Abraham Lincoln.' Whether in regard to national, state or local affairs, it has not hesitated to sustain the right, nor once failed to strike the wrong.

"The *Repository* was launched upon the broad sea of journalism with a subscription list of about three hundred, and its growth up to 1843 was a slow one, being little above four hundred at that time. The consolidation with the *Phoenix* in the fall of 1843 gave an increase of only about one hundred, the patrons of one being largely patrons of the other.

"The local feature was first introduced into the paper on 1851, previous



to which time little attention had been given to local news by either city or county papers. This feature, together with the political ground swell in 1854, started an upward tendency. By the close of the Fremont campaign of 1856 the subscription list had grown to a little over six hundred, a number that, run off on the old hand press, was about the acme of the country publisher's ambition. The breaking out of the Civil War began a new era in the history of the newspaper; men who had not heretofore been newspaper readers now began to read, and those who had read began to read more. The introduction of the power press revolutionized the mechanical side of the business and was a great stimulus to the printer.

"From 1836 to 1841 and again from 1843 to 1850, the *Repository*, its predecessors and successors, had no competition. In the latter year Oscar B. Hord and Charles R. Hobbs established a Democratic sheet by the name of the *Greensburg Gazette*. It gave way, two years later, to the *Democratic Rifle*, Bernard Mullen, editor, which succumbed under the withering frosts of the ensuing November. In 1856 John B. Covington entered the arena with another Democratic paper, which led a wavering career until sometime in 1859. In that year the following notice appears in the *Decatur Republican*. 'The Democrat office of this place was sold last week at sheriff's sale for twenty-five dollars and twenty-five cents—rather a small price for a printing office.' Whether this paper was styled the *Democrat* or whether it was a Democratic paper under some other name has not been ascertained. There seems to have been another Democratic paper established shortly afterward, but its name and founder evidently made little impression on the newspaper world, since neither have been preserved. In 1863 Riley and Mallett, of the *Decatur Republican*, absorbed the flickering Democratic sheet, and for the succeeding six years there was only the one paper in Greensburg.

"In 1869 Martin Zorger and Martin Blair established the *Democratic New Era* and this paper, with several changes in ownership, is still in existence. The owners of this paper in succession have been as follows: Zorger, Ed. D. Donnell & James Hart, W. A. Donnell & Sons, J. E. Mendenhall, Allen W. Clark, W. H. Glidewell and Dr. J. W. Rucker, since 1902."

"In 1901 Dr. J. W. Rucker came to Greensburg from Shelbyville and became the editor of the *Daily Graphic*, which was issued from the *New Era* office. This was issued until January, 1915, when it was discontinued, although the weekly is still continued.

"Meantime there have sprung up Greenback papers, Prohibition papers, 'Coming' and departing 'Nations,' and more 'Democrats' than you could shake a stick at, all of which have gone down to unmarked and forgotten graves."

Thus closes the interesting article of the veteran newspaper man, Orville Thompson.

"DIED—MOURNERS SCARCE."

Among the "unmarked and forgotten" papers which Thomson mentions, the historian has located some half dozen or more with definite names and more or less indefinite dates. On March 25, 1863, Burnham & Howell put out the first issue of the *Greensburg Fact*, a Democratic sheet, but its earthly career was very brief. In November of the same year the *Decatur Republican* pays tribute to the *Fact* in the following dolorous fashion: "Died—In this city last week, of starvation, the *Greensburg Fact*. Mourners scarce." The *Saturday Evening Review* was started August 2, 1879, by George H. McKee and Robert W. Montgomery and espoused the Republican cause. It was edited with ability and was issued regularly for several years. During the summer of 1878, O. P. McLane, a young teacher of Jackson township, started a Democratic paper in Greensburg under the name of the *Decatur Democrat*, which, after a brief and meteoric career, succumbed and was merged with the *News*.

On July 1, 1901, a Baptist minister at Burney, Charles J. Dickens by name, issued the first number of a small church paper, to which he gave the title of *Salem News*. The Baptist church at Burney was called Salem, hence the name of his paper. Wishing his paper to have a wider significance, Rev. Dickens changed its name, on August 15 of the same year, to the *Baptist Voice*. It was printed in the office of the *Greensburg Standard* from the time of the first issue until December, 1902. In July, 1901, Rev. Dickens bought the job plant of Elzo Reed in Greensburg and from the issue of July 20, 1901, to December, 1902, the type was set in his office and the press work done in the *Standard* office. During 1902 the official state paper of the Baptists, which had been published at Indianapolis, was discontinued and Rev. Dickens succeeded in getting his paper made the official paper of his denomination in the state. It seems that with the adoption of his paper as the state organ of his church Rev. Dickens changed its name to the *Baptist Observer*, a title which it still bears. It was issued weekly in Greensburg until the latter part of March, 1910, and then moved to Seymour, where it is now issued from the office of the *Seymour Republican* by J. C. Smith. The plant in Greensburg was sold to Walter A. Kaler, who at once started the *Weekly Democrat*. Sometime before leaving Greensburg the *Observer* passed into the hands of A. D. Berry and W. A. Phillips, the latter soon retiring and leaving the sole management in the hands of Berry, who was in charge until the paper was removed to Seymour.

The *Coming Nation* was established in Greensburg in August, 1892, by J. A. Wayland and, while it was published only a few years here, it attained a national circulation of about eighty thousand. Wayland was a socialist of ability, a man of literary facility and built up a paper here which was known throughout the length and breadth of the country. Later, Wayland established the *Appeal to Reason* at Girard, Kansas, and made it the leading Socialist organ of the whole country. While still in charge of the paper, he committed suicide in 1912. Wayland was born in Versailles, Ripley county, Indiana, in 1854. While publishing his paper in Greensburg he had his office in the Privett block.

The first issue of the *Greensburg Review* made its appearance on August 1, 1879, with George W. McKee and Robert W. Montgomery as editors and owners. The paper was an eight-column folio, all home print, and from the outset gained favor with the reading public of Decatur county. It was a weekly publication, issued on Saturday, and gave special attention to county and local news.

In 1884, Mr. McKee sold a one-fourth interest in the paper to the Hon. John Q. Donnell, who took charge of the editorial department and attracted wide attention by his work. On September 1, 1885, Mr. Donnell sold his interest to A. M. Willoughby, who for two years prior had been city editor of the *Standard*, and the firm became Montgomery & Willoughby. For ten years this partnership existed. In 1884 the paper became a semi-weekly, issued on Wednesdays and Saturdays. July 1, 1895, Mr. Montgomery sold two-thirds of his one-half interest in the paper to Ed D. Donnell, and the partnership of Willoughby & Donnell continued until April, 1897, when Mr. Donnell retired.

On November 1, 1898, the *Greensburg Daily Review* was established, with A. M. Willoughby as editor and Dix D. Hazelrigg as city editor. The daily edition was a success from the start, and has continuously grown in circulation and influence until it is ranked as one of the most progressive and up-to-date newspapers in this part of the state.

Desiring to give the people of Decatur county a newspaper worthy of the name and one far superior to all its former editions, the Daily Review Printing Company was formed in June, 1912, and, on the 1st day of July following, the property was taken over by the company. Many improvements were made at once. A linotype machine was put in and a large quantity of new type and other material was added. A full leased wire news service was installed, which, with improvements made on the general plant, at once pushed *The Daily Review* thus in the lead of all other Decatur county

newspapers. This prestige the paper is championing at the present time, and as it intends to employ the same enterprise in the future as in the past its owners confidently anticipate a continued growth in both subscription and advertising.

The Daily Review Printing Company is composed of Will H. Robbins, a well-known farmer and capitalist; Dan S. Perry, cashier of the Greensburg National Bank; David A. Myers, prominent attorney and ex-judge of the Indiana appellate court; Fred L. Thomas, well known telephone man, and A. M. Willoughby, who has been continuously with the *Review* for thirty years.

The *Review* has always stood for the best interests of Decatur county and Greensburg, and has labored at all times for the upbuilding of the community, socially, morally and financially. It was the first paper to print an article advocating the location of the Odd Fellows' home in Greensburg, and the splendid institution which is today the pride of every resident of the city is in a large measure due to the efforts of this paper. In short, the paper has always led in efforts for the public welfare, and this accounts in a measure for the hearty support that is given it by the people of the surrounding territory. In politics the *Review* is Republican, and has always advocated Republican principles, but it is not offensively partisan, as it grants every man the right to differ with it in his opinions, political and otherwise.

The first issue of the *Greensburg Daily Times* (at that time called the *Daily Democrat*) made its appearance on April 9, 1910. It came very quietly and without having been heralded. The usual preliminaries at the birth of an institution as public as a newspaper were dispensed with and the first intimation that the public had that another mold for the formation of opinion had been under contemplation, was when the paper made its bow, and its editor handed his "salutatory" to the citizens of Greensburg.

Nor was the manner of its coming into life altogether due to the fact that the people of Greensburg had become accustomed to the birth of newspapers in a community which has seen the start and the finish of at least as many organs of the press as most places of its size can boast of.

Its first editor and owner, Walter A. Kaler, had been in the printing business for many years. He had grown up in a country newspaper and job office, and knew the game in all its angles. Just prior to starting the *Times*, he had been issuing the *St. Paul Telegram*, a paper he started in the town of that name in the northwestern part of the county.

Mr. Kaler was an astute and far-seeing man. Although there were already three daily papers (two Republican and one Democrat) then being issued in Greensburg, he felt that another Democratic paper was needed.



He believed that not only the members of that party, but the people of all parties, would welcome another newspaper devoted to the principles of Democracy.

There had been published in Greensburg for several years just before the first issue of the *Times*, the state organ of the Baptists. This paper, known as the *Baptist Observer*, had been sold to Seymour people and the offices moved to that city. The plant was not moved, the presses and full equipment being taken over by the *Times*. Within a few months after its first appearance a company was formed for the purchase of the business. A corporation charter was obtained. Of this company, Alexander Porter was president, John F. Russell, vice-president, and Charles H. Ewing, secretary. Mr. Kaler continued as editor and manager until February, 1911, when he retired from the business and moved with his family to Florida.

The *Times* was first published in the Bracken building on West Main street, just west of Montfort street. In March, 1912, a move was made to the Red Men's building, nearer the public square. The *Times* was the first newspaper in the county to install modern printing machinery. Its equipment was always up-to-date and has always been kept at its best. Its linotype machine was the first to be used in the county.

Charles H. Ewing succeeded Mr. Kaler as editor and manager in February, 1911, and two years later Hamilton Mercer, the present editor took charge. Under his management the paper has held to a high plane. The little bickerings so common among country newspapers have never found a place in its columns. Personalities of a disagreeable or unwelcome nature have always been ruled out, and the *Times* has always been a credit to its managers, its owners, and the party of which it is the organ.

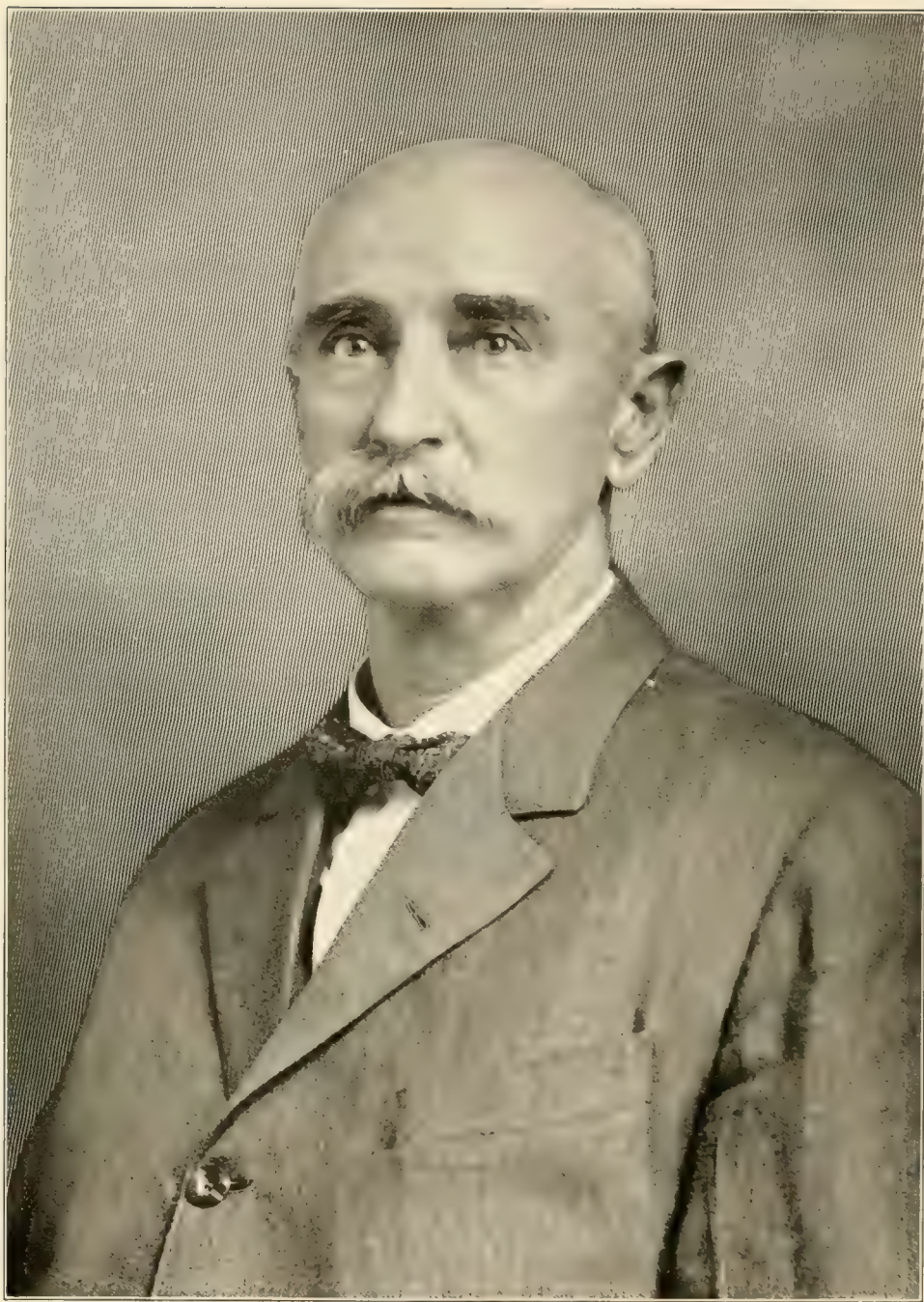
The *Weekly Democrat* is the weekly edition of the *Times*.

Hamilton Mercer, editor of the *Evening Times* and *Weekly Democrat*, is a native Hoosier, but he has been in the newspaper business in several other states. He started in the business on the *Anderson Daily Bulletin*. Later he went to Marion and became editor of the old *Morning News*. He was for a short time on the *Cincinnati Post* and later was editorial writer on the *Danville (Ill.) Democrat*. Mr. Mercer is author of "The Reproach of Capital Punishment," a work which has distinguished him as a criminologist.

#### THE DAILY NEWS.

The *Daily News* was started on January 1, 1894, by Frank Trimble and Ed Lines and was the first daily paper to be published in Greensburg. On





JAMES E. CASKEY.

May 1, 1894, Ed Lines disposed of his interests to Mr. Trimble, who afterwards sold out to Harry Matthews, and he in turn sold to James D. White.

The *Weekly News* was launched in 1898 by the owners of the daily, and it has since been continued by the various editors during their periods of ownership.

All the aforementioned owners have passed to their final reward, the last named, James D. White, dying in November, 1902. The present owner and editor, James E. Caskey, purchased the paper from the mother of Mr. White, soon after his death, taking charge on December 1, 1902. At that time the daily had a circulation of three hundred and fifty and the weekly, five hundred and sixty. At the present time the circulation of the *Daily News* is two thousand five hundred and eighty and the weekly, one thousand five hundred and sixty. The *News* stands alone in its field in that its unprecedented circulation, considering the territory in which it operates, was obtained through meritorious effort.

As this is especially an agricultural county, Greensburg being the active center of one of the richest farm areas in Indiana, Editor Caskey has devoted much time, labor and money towards matters of interest to the husbandryman. This step, taken when he first assumed control of the *News*, has been one of his best circulation builders.

It was he who advocated and caused to be held the first corn school in this county, so agriculturists everywhere familiar with the policy of the *News*, are unstinted in their praise of the man who has so successfully controlled its destinies for more than a decade, and show their appreciation by their most liberal and continued patronage. This advocacy of better seed corn and scientific farming on more advanced lines, has had its desired results, for today no county of the state stands higher in quality or quantity of its products—land area under cultivation considered.

Mr. Caskey at present has a boys' corn club of one hundred and six members. During the initiatory year he furnished fine seed corn free, and encouraged the boys to raise better corn than their fathers by offering to the winner a free trip to the farmers' short course at Purdue University. The winners were to be determined from those raising either best ten ears of corn, best single ear or largest yield on a single acre. To date he has personally paid the expenses of such trips for twelve boys, who each spent a week at the experiment station of the university.

In 1914, impressed with the idea that motorists, travelers through the country and even the rural mail carriers would find it a convenience and a pleasure to know who lived here and there as they journeyed the highways of



the county, Mr. Caskey assumed the huge task of painting each rural resident's name on his mail box. This enterprise, Mr. Caskey shows, was done at no expense to the owners, and was a gift from the *News*. Previous to sending men into the country to letter the boxes, it was made plain that the lettering of a box carried no obligation. It was a gift, and the five thousand two hundred and fifty names on boxes in this county today, underscored with words suggesting and heralding the *News*, is but one sample of many of what the *News* is doing in the community where it flourishes. Today as a result of this enterprise on the part of the *News*, Decatur county stands alone of all the counties of the United States where the rural mail service is extended, that has a solid service of this sort. Immediately following this, Editor Caskey distributed free metal mail boxes in Greensburg, and every residence in this county is now supplied with such.

The *News* aims to interest, inform and entertain, not any special class, or kind of people, but the great mass of Decatur county readers in general. The slogan of the editor-in-chief has always been, "Get the news," regardless of expense, and "get it first." The paper has never attempted to compete with the metropolitan dailies, confining its efforts solely to an "up-to-the-minute" service of all news of Greensburg, various towns and countrysides in the county.

This policy of all the news, all the time, handled with absolute fairness and accuracy, which applies to political as well as general news stories, are pre-eminently responsible for the *Daily News* being a welcome visitor into so many of the homes of this county where it is a source of interest, entertainment and pleasure.

#### ST. PAUL NEWSPAPERS.

The history of the St. Paul papers has been difficult to trace owing to the fact that no files have been preserved. The first paper in St. Paul was the *Press*, which seems to have began and ended its existence in 1860. The second paper in the town was the *Democrat*, which was started in 1868 by Elias Barnes, but it was doomed to a short career of only a few months. It was then removed to Greensburg, where it proved no more successful and, after a few more months of futile struggling, it was quietly laid away to rest. The next paper in St. Paul was the *Register*, which first made its appearance on October 15, 1879, under the management of J. F. Hankins. It lasted about two years, the last issue being dated August 1, 1881. The paper was then moved to Greensburg and the name changed to the *Decatur Democrat*,

with Thomas Greenfield and Hankins as editors and owners. If there was a paper in St. Paul from 1881 to 1890, it has not been discovered. On January 6, 1890, Cox & Trissal issued the first number of the *St. Paul Mail*, but just how long this paper was published has not been ascertained. Cox left the firm in the latter part of July, 1891, to accept a place on the *Indianapolis Sun* and, according to the best evidence obtainable, the *Mail* shortly afterward breathed its last. The next St. Paul paper to try its fortune in the town was the *Telegram*, which appeared under the management of Walter A. Kaler on March 17, 1905. Kaler continued as owner and editor until November 1, 1909, when he disposed of the plant to Ora C. Pearce, the present editor. Pearce was only eighteen years of age at the time he took charge of the paper, but, despite his youth, he made it a success from the start. It is a six-column folio, independent in politics, devoted first of all to local news and advertising, and is receiving hearty support in the community. The office has sufficient equipment to do all kinds of job work and, with its linotype machine, is able to turn out work on short notice.

## WESTPORT NEWSPAPERS.

The *Westport Independent* was established in 1886 by Rev. Leroy Hirshburg, a Methodist minister, who issued the paper several years and then disposed of it to Carl Shafer. About 1899 the *Westport Courier* was started by Dickens & Morgan and advocated the principles of the Republican party. On July 14, 1904, the *Courier* sold out to the *Independent*, and Shafer became the owner and editor of the new paper, the *Courier-Independent*, the name by which the paper is still known. Shafer continued in charge of the paper several years and then sold it to Joseph Tucker and James E. Nicely. Later Tucker acquired the sole interest in the paper and issued it until 1913 when he disposed of it to T. W. Robinson. In March, 1914, Robinson sold it to James H. Keith after an ownership of eight months. Keith has built up the paper since he has acquired it until he now has a first-class sheet, which finds its way into seven hundred homes in Decatur and surrounding counties. There appears to have been a paper by the name of the *Decatur Journal* published in Westport in the eighties, but no definite information concerning it has been obtained.

## CLARKSBURG BUDGET.

On July 10, 1909, the first issue of the *Bi-Weekly Budget*, the only paper ever published in Fugit township, made its appearance in Clarksburg. It was a two-column, four-page sheet (five and one-half by eight inches) and

was published by two Clarksburg boys, C. G. McCracken and J. C. Smith, the office being located in the home of the former. On May 1, 1911, the office was moved to the Brodie blacksmith building and on July 22, of the same year, the paper was enlarged to a three-column sheet. The paper was moved, on January 1, 1912, to its present location in a room erected for that purpose by C. E. Kincaid. In the spring of 1912 the partnership was dissolved, McCracken taking over the management, and Mr. Smith removing to Cleveland, Ohio, to engage in other business. On July 5, 1912, the paper was made a weekly and the word "bi-weekly" dropped from the title. Since that time the *Budget* has gone steadily onward, endeavoring to give its readers the news of the community, free from all political bias. It would not do to leave a discussion of this paper without making mention of its editor. Mr. McCracken is an invalid and unable to walk. He does all of his work in a chair and deserves a great deal of credit for the effort he has made to give his community such an excellent little paper. He is assisted in the office by his sister, who runs the small foot-press on which the paper is printed.

## CHAPTER XV.

### AGRICULTURE.

Horace Greeley, addressing a gathering of farmers at the Tippecanoe fair grounds at Lafayette, in 1871, said:

"Indiana farmers are slovenly. They grow more weeds to the acre than any other locality in the world, with which I have had any acquaintance. They try to cultivate too much land. Their crops do not show the increase they should, only showing an average of twelve bushels of wheat to the acre, when it should reach twenty-five. The hay crop is not cut soon enough and a very large amount of it is lost on this account. The ground is plowed too shallow. It should be plowed deep, so as to enable grains to take deeper hold and thus withstand our frequent droughts."

This general indictment of Indiana farmers, made forty-five years ago by Mr. Greeley, was doubtless justified at the time, and no doubt the conditions he mentioned obtained, in a measure, in Decatur county. But since that time there has been a tendency to diminish the size of farms held and the gospel of deep plowing is now universally accepted. While the weeds have the same tendency to grow that they exhibited then, they are kept cut back along the roads and fences and their presence among growing crops is no longer tolerated.

Early settlers had considerable to contend with, when they attempted to raise a corn crop. It is said that in the fall of 1822 the squirrels traveled much and ate nearly all the corn in the county. But Decatur county pioneers were persevering folk, and the mere failure of a corn crop was not sufficient to daunt them. They cut their wheat with a hook, trampled it out with horses, cleaned it on a sheet and hauled it to Cincinnati, where they sold it for thirty-seven cents a bushel. They also found a market there for fox and coon skins at ten cents each, which helped a little in alleviating financial stringencies back home.

The first steam threshing machine to be used in the county was tried out by Jackson & Butler on the J. E. Robbins farm, one mile south of Greensburg, July 12, 1859. Several hundred farmers, coming from all parts of the county, were present to witness the test.

The most important farm crop of pioneer days is no longer cultivated.



This crop was flax. It is probable that three-fourths of the present population of the county have never seen a flax patch. A curious characteristic of this crop was after it had been raised for a few years in the same place, the ground "ran out" and was rendered worthless for flax growing. The hemp was put through a variety of processes before it was ready to weave. It was first pulled, bound into bundles and stored away to dry, after which the seeds were beaten out. It was then spread out in order to rot the woody part, after which it was "broken," "swingled" and "hackled." The fibre was then carded and threaded, after which it was ready for the spinning wheel.

Another industry which has almost disappeared is the cultivation of sorghum cane. In 1870, J. G. H. Montgomery, who lived east of Greensburg, produced one thousand three hundred gallons of sorghum. One acre alone produced three hundred and twenty gallons.

One of the prize animals shown at Decatur county fairs forty years ago was the roan steer, "Decatur," owned by T. M. McCoy. He was eighteen hands high and weighed three thousand seven hundred pounds. It was claimed that by proper feeding he could have been made to weigh half a ton more.

Each year there is a steady increase in the number of Decatur county farmers who are devoting their time and money to raising pure-bred live stock. For a number of years there has been a general awakening to the fact that it costs no more to keep a prize animal than it does a scrub, and that the rewards from fancy stock are out of all proportion to income derived from inferior animals.

Among the leading breeders of fancy stock in the county are the following:

Hogs.—Poland China, G. S. Gilmore and Wright & Thompson, of Greensburg. Durocs, James Clark, of Clarksburg, and Mr. Redelman, Mr. Shafer and S. S. Cole, of Greensburg. Hampshires, John E. Robbins, M. E. Newhouse and W. H. Robbins, of Greensburg. Mulefoots, Charles Thompson, of Letts. Chester Whites, Walter Sharp, of Westport, and Adam Hessler, of Greensburg.

Cattle.—Shorthorn, William Robbins Sons and Horace and Londa Wright, of Letts. Aberdeen Angus, Frank Baker, of Greensburg, and Raymond Pleak, of St. Paul. Hereford, W. A. McCoy, of Greensburg. Jersey, Henry Helmich, of Greensburg, and Walter Sharp, of Westport. Holstein, John Hornung, of Greensburg.

Under the laws of the state, all pure-bred mares and stallions in the state must be registered, with their general description and condition. The latest





CORN EXHIBIT, GREENSBURG.



HERSCHEL OSTING.



RALPH HITE.

WINNERS OF CORN PRIZES.





bulletin issued by Purdue University gives the following list of owners of Decatur county stallions and pure-bred mares:

Belgians—Ralph Anderson, Letts; J. W. Corya, Hope; J. E. Davis, Westport; Charles H. Ray, Greensburg; Morton Tanner, Adams, and Charles H. Thompson, Letts. French Draft—Ralph Anderson and Charles H. Thompson, Letts. German Coach—H. M. Redelman, Greensburg. Percheron—William Blake, Letts; C. M. Beall, Clarksburg; Jacob Black, Letts; J. B. Clark, Greensburg; H. H. Flint, Greensburg; Frank Jordon, Letts; John Korte, Newpoint; Estal Pleak, Letts; H. M. Redelman, Greensburg, and Morton Tanner, Adams. Shire—W. A. Miers, Burney. Standard bred—G. A. Anderson, Greensburg, and J. D. Davis, St. Paul.

The list of owners of pure-bred registered jacks in the county is as follows: R. Anderson, Letts; William Blake, Letts; J. B. Clark, Greensburg; H. C. Clemons, Greensburg; J. E. Davis, Westport; Bert Davis, Westport; Carl Johnson, Greensburg; Williard A. Miers, Burney; Charles H. Ray, Greensburg; Hill & Jordan, Letts; William Kincaid, Greensburg; Charles H. Thompson, Letts, and Straughter V. Pleak, Greensburg.

#### CATTLE FEEDING.

Owing to a number of causes, but mainly through the growth of the silo in popular regard, the cattle-feeding industry has enjoyed a wonderful growth in Decatur county during the past few years. Now in almost every barn, which has a silo standing beside it, a few head of cattle are fed during the winter months, while a large number of farmers, instead of making cattle feeding a side issue, are devoting all their efforts to fattening cattle for the market.

The marked growth of this branch of farming bespeaks much for the future prosperity of Decatur county. Every carload of cattle fed through the winter means many dollars to the feeder in the increased fertility of his soil. While there may be years when market fluctuations will cut the profits of the cattle feeder, he can always be certain of realizing pay for his labor through increased crop production.

One of the most attractive branches of cattle feeding is fattening "baby beef." While sometimes a money-losing undertaking in the hands of the novice, this particular branch yields exceptional returns to the expert feeder. Among the successful producers of "baby beef" in the county are John Gartin, Burney; Harry Pavy, Burney; W. E. Jackson; J. G. Miller, Cliff Eward, George Osting and Bernard Duffy, Greensburg; Edward Moore and Milton Moore, Letts.

There are a large number of farmers in the county who go to the Chicago and Kansas City stock markets each fall and purchase grass-fed cattle, to fatten on ensilage and cotton-seed meal during the winter months. An attempt to enumerate all such feeders in the county would be futile. Prominent among the more extensive feeders are the Hamiltons, Meeks, Donnells and Sefton and Miers.

Mule feeding is another Decatur county enterprise, in which several leading farmers are profitably engaged. Among them are William Mobley, of Clay township, who is one of the largest mule producers in the state. Marion Elliott, of Jackson township, also raises a large number of mules. Hamilton, Fee, Kincaid and Powers are other extensive mule breeders.

#### THE TOMATO-GROWING INDUSTRY.

The tomato-growing industry of Decatur county is still in its infancy. It was not until the fall of 1914 that any serious step was taken toward its development. At that time a contract was made by a few of the progressive citizens of Alert, Jackson township, with Frank and F. C. Doly, of Columbus, Indiana, to erect and have ready for the 1915 crop a canning factory at Alert, providing that the proper, or rather necessary, number of acres could be secured. During the winter months the question of raising tomatoes for market was taken up with the farmers of the vicinity by Doctor Bamster, Mulford & Webb, Dr. T. J. Norton and others, with the result that about one hundred and fifty acres were contracted for. At time of writing (July, 1915) the site for the factory had been purchased and work started on the building. Experts who have examined the soil declare that Jackson township should be second to none in tomato raising and the farmers of that community have high hopes that the industry may be as successful as it has been predicted.

#### THE COUNTY AGENT.

The county agent is an outgrowth of a demand on the part of the farmer to keep in constant touch with the latest and best agricultural thought. The farmers' institute was the prime mover in this awakening, and the idea was hastened by the industrial trains and short courses in agriculture given under the auspices of Purdue University. The Legislature of 1913 provided for a county agent and since that time a large number of counties have taken advantage of the law and engaged such an official.

Decatur county has had a county agent since August 1, 1913, and W. E.

McCoy has been in charge of the office since it was established. He is a graduate of Ohio State University and has taken special courses in Purdue University since coming to the county. He has shown his value to the farmers of the county in scores of ways and it is safe to say that there is not a farmer in the county but has been benefited in some way or other by his work. In general it may be said that the county agent is nothing more than an expert scientific farmer. In every case in Indiana he is a graduate of a recognized agricultural college and thus has the scientific training which makes him of inestimable value to the community which he serves.

The first report of Mr. McCoy appears in the report of the state statistician for 1914 and covers the year closing June 30, 1914. Some idea of the work done is shown by the fact that he held 139 meetings, with a total attendance of 9,002; had 762 office calls and made 500 farm visits, with a total mileage of 5,703. The calls at the office and the visits to the farms over the county covered practically every phase of farm work and crops.

During the winter of 1913-14 four farmers' institutes were organized in the county, in addition to the three which were already in operation. Mr. McCoy was very successful in getting the teachers of the county to show their pupils how to test seed corn and clover. There was a hog campaign conducted during the latter part of March, which was very helpful. An alfalfa auto tour was held and in the course of his first year Mr. McCoy succeeded in getting the acreage of this crop doubled. During each spring office meetings are held and some special topic discussed each Saturday. It is known that a large part of Decatur county has acid soil and Mr. McCoy has taken much time in showing how this can be cultivated to the best advantage. Demonstration plots, where the soil is treated with limestone, have been established at various places and it has been found that the soil is capable of raising clover with the proper addition of lime. Four such demonstration plots were established the first year; a corn variety test plot, and three co-operative fertilizer test plots.

Summing up the first year's work of the county agent in Decatur county, it is seen there is no longer a question as to the usefulness of the office. Among other valuable things which the first year has brought forth may be mentioned the following: A farm-service bureau was established where stock and farm articles are listed for sale, farm help secured, etc.; several boys' corn and poultry clubs were organized, with an average enrollment of forty each; a soil-fertility campaign was inaugurated; a men's five-acre corn contest was conducted; and lastly, an interest has been aroused in better farm-



ing throughout the county which cannot help but be of great benefit to its agricultural interests.

#### AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

The blanks of the township assessors schedule seven different items for taxation: Horses and mules, cattle, hogs, sheep, automobiles, farm implements and household furniture. The last report (1915) of James Cline, county assessor, to the state statistician gives the following facts:

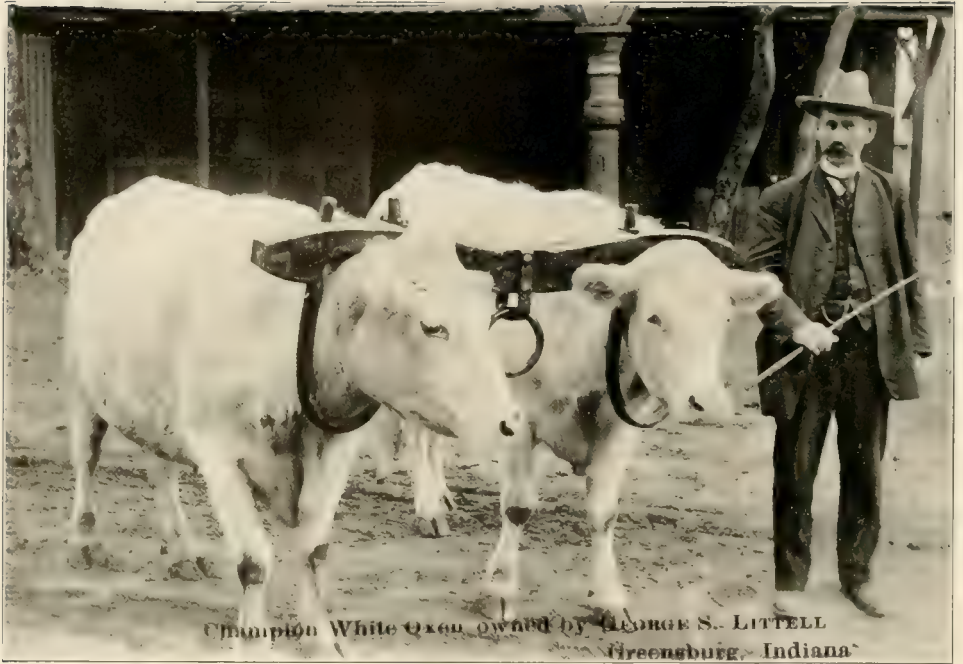
	Number.	Assessed Value.	Av. Value.
Horses and mules -----	9,386	\$801,210	\$85.30
Cattle -----	21,723	512,438	23.60
Hogs -----	22,950	254,702	8.50
Sheep -----	2,950	14,204	4.85
Automobiles -----	437	119,317	270.75
Sets of farm implements--	1,412	114,550	81.
Sets of furniture -----	4,367	195,022	44.60

The last item, sets of furniture, includes the household goods in the urban as well as the rural districts. There is nothing in the report to indicate the respective number of sets in each district. There is no division of horses and in the report, although another report gives the county two thousand one hundred and one mules on January 1, 1914. Decatur is one of the ten leading mule-producing counties of the state.

The last (1914) state statistician's report gives the following crop statistics for Decatur county:

Wheat -----	30,542 acres.	516,068 bushels.
Corn -----	51,444 acres.	2,015,946 bushels.
Oats -----	4,925 acres.	64,700 bushels.
Rye -----	1,511 acres.	16,486 bushels.
Barley -----	20 acres.	370 bushels.
Buckwheat -----	4 acres.	18 bushels.
Berries -----	7 acres.	540 bushels.
Potatoes -----	49 acres.	3,690 bushels.
Tobacco -----	7 acres.	15 tons.
Timothy hay -----	14,203 acres.	9,787 tons.
Clover hay -----	5,560 acres.	4,623 tons.
Alfalfa -----	166 acres.	298 tons.
Cow peas -----	22 acres.	32 tons.





Champion White Oxen, owned by GEORGE S. LITTELL  
Greensburg, Indiana



SCENE ON SATEL ARDEHY STOCK FAIR.





There are many other items of interest in this valuable report, a volume of which may be obtained by anyone upon addressing the state statistician. Among other things, it was noticed that Decatur county had one thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven separate farms, four hundred and six wind-mills and ninety-three silos.

FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

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DECATUR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Probably the first organization in the county which had for its object the improvement of farming conditions was the Decatur County Agricultural Society. A meeting of its directors is reported on January 3, 1859, for the purpose of electing officers for that year. J. D. Pleak was elected president, J. Q. Adams, secretary, and J. V. Bemusdaffer, treasurer. R. R. Cobb was the retiring president. The secretary was allowed twenty-five dollars and the treasurer fifteen dollars for services during the year. Resolutions were adopted commending the *Indiana Farmer* and urging farmers to read agricultural periodicals.

WAYNESBURG FARMERS' CLUB.

The Waynesburg Farmers' Club was organized, with Harry Carr as president and Wilbert Thurston as secretary, in 1912. The organization meets twice a month for discussion of farm topics and home economics. Programs are laid out for the entire season by a special committee, composed of the officers and two others. Two successful corn shows have been held by the club and are strong factors in the social life of that community. The present officers of the club are: Wilbert Thurston, president; John W. Smith, secretary, and M. M. Carter, treasurer.

THE FARMERS' CLUB OF SPRINGHILL.

On Friday evening, November 27, 1914, a few friends met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scott, in Fugit township. After enjoying the usual six o'clock dinner and spending a social hour together, an organization was affected which was to be known as the Farmers' Club of Springhill. Plans, aims and purposes were discussed at the time and permanent officers were elected: President, Ernest Power; vice-president, Mrs. Elbert Meek; secre-

tary, Mrs. Robert Scott; treasurer, Mrs. Nathan Logan. A committee of the executive officers was appointed to draw up a constitution and set of by-laws. Membership in the organization is limited to twelve families. The regular meetings of the club are held on the third Thursday of each month and the annual business meeting and election of officers are held at the November meeting. At the meetings there are usually talks on farm or household subjects, recitations by the children and a general discussion of topics of interest. Everything is kept as simple as possible. In order to make the work of the club as practicable as possible, one day is set apart in each August to investigate some special farm problem. On this particular day the club repairs to the home of one of its members where a special study is made of some farm crop. The club also makes trips to county fairs and studies the agricultural exhibits.

#### THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

The first session of the Decatur county farmers' institute was held on December 2 and 3, 1910, at Clarksburg. Despite the cold weather, the sessions were well attended and a great interest was manifested by all of those present. In view of the fact that this was the first session of this organization the details are here given in full:

The institute was opened by devotional exercises conducted by Rev. H. W. Edwards. Papers were read by Joe G. Miller and Bart McLaughlin on "Agricultural Education." J. J. Doan talked on "The Use and Abuse of Corn Fodder." Miss Mary L. Matthews, of Wayne county, gave her views on "Planning Meals" and "Furnishing a Home," and Miss Edith Hamilton opened the discussion.

Dr. Curtis Bland gave a very interesting address at the evening session on "Preventable Diseases."

The Saturday morning program was as follows: Devotional exercises, Rev. Wimmer; music; "Cattle as Money Savers," J. J. Doan; discussion, Henry Dravis; paper, Earl Gartin; "Planning Meals," Miss Mary L. Matthews, Cambridge City; discussion, Mrs. Rollin Clark; music; "Furnishing the Home," Miss Matthews; discussion, Miss Edith Hamilton; adjournment.

The Saturday afternoon program was equally excellent and was as follows: Reading, Prof. Zetterburg; "Building and Using the Silo," J. J. Doan; discussion, William Jackson and Henry Hodges; "Poultry on the Farm," Miss Hannah Baker; discussion, Mrs. Walter Hite; "A Girl's Part in Country Life," Miss Matthews; general discussion; adjournment.

The ladies of the Methodist Episcopal church served a bounteous repast each day at the noon hour in the Odd Fellows hall.

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

Sixteen hundred Decatur county farmers are protected against loss from fire and lightning, through the Patrons of Husbandry Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company of Decatur County. The association takes its name from the order that effected its organization. It was organized on June 20, 1878. At that time there were many organizations throughout the county known as the Patrons of Husbandry, commonly called the Grange.

On the date mentioned, 1878, delegates from Decatur county granges met in Greensburg at Hoosier hall and formed the company under provisions of an act of the Legislature passed in 1877, which authorized such organizations to conduct an insurance business. Granges interested in the formation of this company were those at Flat Rock, St. Paul, Greensburg, Center, Washington, Mt. Vernon, Flora, Sand Creek, Alert and Bell.

According to the by-laws of the company as organized, the insurance would not go into effect until policies amounting to fifty thousand dollars had been written. This amount was secured during the following September and the company was then ready for business. The first officers were: Wesley Goff, president; M. L. Wright, vice-president; Woodson Hamilton, secretary; A. H. Hice, treasurer, and George Hogg, assessor. These officers, with F. P. Applegate and T. G. Power, constituted the first board of directors.

In the beginning the company only insured members of the Grange, but later it was arranged so that any reputable farmer might share in its benefits. In 1887 the Mechanicsburg Mutual Fire Insurance Company united with this association. It was during this year that the company sustained its first loss, rendering an assessment necessary. Until 1915 the company had made thirty-one assessments, amounting to a total of sixty-seven mills on the dollar, thus giving its members protection against loss through fire and lightning at an annual cost of about eighteen cents on the hundred dollars.

At the close of the fiscal year in 1915 the company had paid for fire losses, \$93,983.93. The total number of persons now insured in the company is one thousand six hundred and fifty-two and they carry insurance amounting to \$3,575,595.

The company is managed by a board of seven directors. Fifty-two farmers have served the organization in this capacity. Eleven others have served as its president. During its existence it has had but six secretaries,



as follow: Woodson Hamilton, Lafayette Shellhorn, Robert Whiteman, Matthew Porter, W. F. Robbins and S. W. Hillman. Present officers and directors are: M. E. Newhouse, president; Frank Brown, vice-president; S. W. Hillman, secretary; J. F. Templeton, treasurer, Ovid House, W. A. McCoy and James F. Blackmore.

Only farm buildings are insured by this company, which thus avoids dangerous risks and large losses. No business is solicited and it is necessary for a farmer to ask for a representative of the company to call upon him if he wishes to secure insurance.

#### DECATUR COUNTY FAIRS.

County fairs have had a rather varying existence in Decatur county. They have thrived, only to die a natural death, rise and flourish, only to die again. The first fair was held in 1852 by the Agricultural Society of Decatur County, which was organized on September 13 of that year. The first officers were, James Morgan, president; W. W. Hamilton, vice-president; B. H. Harney, treasurer; Davies Batterton, secretary, and Seth Lowe, Robert Foster, Moses Rutherford, John Hillis, James Moody, Charles Miller and James B. Foley, directors. This first fair was held just north of Hendricks street, between Broadway and Lincoln, in "Hendrick's woods." Its receipts were three hundred and twenty-five dollars and the profits were one hundred and twenty-eight dollars. The agricultural society continued to give annual fairs for many years, with ever-increasing success. In 1856 the society met an exception by losing considerable money, the receipts for that year being one thousand two hundred and fifty-eight dollars and ninety-eight cents and the expenditures two thousand, two hundred and forty-four dollars and fifty-eight cents. In 1857 the gate receipts totaled over eleven hundred dollars and eight hundred dollars were given in premiums, three hundred dollars of which was "in silverware." The greatest fair up to this time was held in 1858, when R. R. Cobb served as president, J. Q. Adams as secretary of the society and John T. Hamilton as marshal of the grounds. Current accounts of the fair say that whisky was secretly sold on the grounds in spite of the marshal's efforts. Exceptionally good horse races were held on the last day, when "John Smalley," a grey pony that was the pride of the state, made a mile in the fast time of 3:11. Most of the races of the day were won in times between 3:18 and 3:48. In 1869 the society bought twenty acres of ground, part of which is now covered by the warehouses of the American Tobacco Company, for forty-seven hundred dollars.

In the late seventies a thorough reorganization of the society was undertaken by the Hon. Will Cumback and from that time until late in the nineties the fair flourished. Then the fairs were discontinued because they proved a money-losing proposition and the fair grounds were lost on a mortgage.

On August 8, 1905, Uriah Privett, A. A. Magee, Goddard & Deem, I. Carl Mitchell, Phil H. Spohn, C. B. Ainsworth, Gregg Alyea, John W. White, James E. Caskey, Pulse & Porter, George S. Littell, Elmer E. Roland, Willis Q. Elder, E. E. Doles, Williams & Clemons, Oscar M. Elder, A. M. Willoughby, John G. Zollener, Luther D. Braden, Mike Conner, R. S. Meek, J. Y. Hitt, George Saunders, C. H. Reed, J. C. Davis, J. B. Kitchin, Walter W. Bonner, John W. Rhodes, C. W. Woodward, Orlando Lee and Williard A. Miers, all prominent citizens of the county, incorporated themselves as the Decatur County Fair Association. They rented the old fair grounds north of the city, built an amphitheatre and some buildings and continued the old fairs. Five or six years later they were reorganized as the Greensburg Fair Association. The last fair was held July 23-26, 1912, when they were discontinued because of lack of popular support. At that time the officers were: President, W. C. Pulse; vice-president, George S. Littell; secretary, Dr. C. B. Ainsworth; treasurer, E. E. Doles, and Will A. McCoy, a director. The association is still in existence, but its assets have been liquidated and it is inactive. Whether another fair will ever be held is a question which only the future can tell.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION.

When the first settlers came to Decatur county, there were no roads north of the Ohio river. There were rough, half-opened wagonways leading back from the river to points ten to twenty miles distant, but no real roads. Three of these wagon ways extended into the woods from Vevay, Madison and Lawrenceburg. After running for a few miles, they became nothing but blazed trails and all three came together at Jericho, located two miles southeast of Napoleon.

On account of its then advantageous transportation facilities, Jericho had high ambitions of sometime becoming a great commercial center. Its hopes, however, were ultimately blasted by its more lucky neighbor. From Jericho northward there was but a single trail.

This trail was known as the Wilson trace, starting at Jericho and running almost on the site of the Michigan road to the Cobb settlement. It then crossed what was later the Clarksburg pike and, swinging south, entered Greensburg near what is now Lincoln street and Central avenue.

At first this trace was not cut out at all points. Those first over it had to widen the path, remove limbs and sometimes cut down trees in order to get through. The roots made it rough riding, but they served one useful purpose—they kept the wagons from sinking so deep into the mud that they could not be moved at all.

The first movement toward roads was after the county was organized in 1822, when Jonathan Dayton and others presented a petition asking for the laying off of a road running from the Lawrenceburg state road, near St. Omer, to the Clifty and Brookville road. This petition the board, after consideration, refused to grant, "on account of indefiniteness." At that time the Lawrenceburg road had existence on paper only, and there was considerable conjecture as to where it would be eventually located.

At the same meeting of the county commissioners William Henderson and others, of Fugit township, asked for appointment of viewers for a road beginning at the east county line and running southwest to the forks of Clifty. This prayer was granted and William Custer, James Logan and

Adam Rankin were appointed viewers. This was the same route later followed by the Sandusky, Springhill and Clarksburg pike.

The road running from St. Paul to St. Omer and thence to Downeyville was allowed at the next session of the board of commissioners, August 12. Daniel Pike and others asked for a road from where the Flatrock crosses the county line to Robert Campbell's house. This road was granted and is still in use.

The early roads were not laid out according to any definite plan, but were run in such a way as to strike the high ground and keep away from the low lands and swamps, which would render them impassable several months in the year. The following description of a new road found in Volume 1, page 142, of the commissioners' records, is illustrative of this point:

"Leading from Greensburg to the county line, beginning on the west bank of W. I. Lowry's spring branch, running west, crossing Clifty with the open line, passing Eliza Craig's to the first branch west of Eliza Craig's, thence north of the line so far as to strike corner of small meadow, thence west with the fence of the farm of Lewis Craig's heirs to Laughridge's corner, then on open line between the heirs and Laughridge, continuing the open line to Elliott's corner where it strikes the old road." (Approved July 31, 1831.)

#### TURNPIKES.

Though the county had been continuously and rapidly growing in wealth from its earliest settlement, its roads were greatly neglected for a time and no provision was made for their betterment. Until the year 1847 no improvements were made on the roads and travel in the rainy seasons was a difficult task. The Greensburg and Napoleon Turnpike Company was incorporated on January 24, 1847, with Ezra Lathrop, John T. Stevens, R. R. Cobb, Elias Connell, George Dart, M. D. Ross, R. H. Harvey, J. B. Foley, John Glass, James Hamilton and Preston E. Hopkins as directors. The Greensburg and Harrison Turnpike Company was incorporated on January 26, 1847, with the following directors: A. R. Forsythe, Seth Lowe, John Thomson, G. B. Roszell, James Hamilton, Robert Ross, James Morgan, James B. Foley, John Hopkins and James Treman.

From 1847 until 1863 there is no record of any further advancements in the matter of good roads. On December 2, 1863, John E. Robbins and fifty-one other citizens of Decatur county filed their petition with the board of county commissioners for an order allowing them to build a turnpike



along the line of the Vernon road from a point where it leaves the south line of the corporation of the city of Greensburg, to a point where it crosses the line between Washington and Marion townships. The capital stock of the company was fixed at three thousand dollars per mile, of which four thousand eight hundred dollars had already been subscribed by the petitioners. Their petition was granted, work was begun soon after, and the road was completed in the year 1866. Since that time about sixty additional miles of turnpikes have been built in this county, reaching out in all the roads leading from Greensburg to distances of from five to twelve miles. The list of these different turnpikes follows: To Clarksburg, twelve miles; Kingston short line, four miles; Greensburg and Milroy, six miles; Greensburg to Clifty, five miles; Greensburg to county line, via Milford, twelve miles; Greensburg and Hartsville, thirteen miles; Greensburg and Sand Creek, nine miles; Greensburg and Layton's Mill, six miles.

These roads have done a great work in the development of the material interests of the county and in giving the citizens of the county means of travel, not only for pleasure, but also they served as a great aid in bettering the facilities for placing the products of this county on the different foreign markets.

Some of the early acts of the Legislature concerning roads in and through Decatur county were as follows: January 20, 1820, an act establishing the Michigan road from Lawrenceburg to Indianapolis; January 24, 1824, a special act, providing for a road from Madison to Greensburg; January 12, 1829, an act locating the Vandalia state road.

#### WATER TRANSPORTATION.

Whether or not Sand creek was ever navigable depended largely upon the nature of craft that the navigator desired to use. As early as 1827, some enterprising citizens, for some unknown reason, conceived the idea that it was of sufficient size to float a water craft of some kind. This belief led the representative from Decatur to introduce a bill in the state Legislature looking toward its utilization as a waterway.

On January 22, 1827, an act was passed to improve the navigation of Sand creek, requiring Bartholomew and Jennings counties to keep it clear of obstructions. By widening its channel and deepening it and providing it with additional water, as many present-day congressmen seek to do in order to get some creek back home improved, it might yet become an artery of commerce. Even in those days, however, Sand creek could hardly have been brought within the reach of a modern rivers and harbors appropriation bill.

Sand creek was not the only navigable river in Decatur county in those days. Flat Rock also had aspirations as a waterway. Dr. Jonathan Griffin and Alfred Major, in early advertisements of a St. Omer lot sale, called attention to the fact that the city is but "three quarters of a mile from the navigable waters of Flat Rock, where boats pass down to New Orleans."

#### RAILROADS OF DECATUR COUNTY.

As early as the year 1832, steps were taken by the citizens of this county to procure a railroad for Greensburg. The Lawrenceburg & Indianapolis Railroad was incorporated on February 2, 1832, under the leadership of George H. Dunn. Three years later, at the 1835-36 session of the Legislature, an act of incorporation was procured for this same road, which was to pass through Greensburg and Shelbyville. The three directors of this road from Decatur county were Martin Adkain, James Freeman and Nathan D. Gulion. It was provided that construction should start within three years and that the road should be completed within ten years after the passage of the act. The route was to include Napoleon and Greensburg.

Hon. George M. Dunn was chosen president and considerable stock was subscribed along the line. Work was immediately begun on this road at Lawrenceburg. The financial crash of 1837 stopped its operations, and this company later was wiped out of existence by the provisions of the time limit for the completion of this road as set forth in the act.

In 1847-48 a charter was obtained for the Lawrenceburg & Rushville Railroad, and, on its organization, Judge Dunn was chosen its president. The projected line of this railroad passed about six miles northeast of Greensburg, and this aroused the citizens of the town, also those of the central and western part of the county, to the importance of securing a "branch" of that road through their section. After due consideration, a meeting was held in Greensburg on March 30, 1849, "to consider the propriety of carrying on the proposed road from Lawrenceburg to Greensburg, and on through Edinburg." The proposition, which was placed before the assembled citizens by Judge Dunn, was that there had been \$70,000 of stock taken, \$25,000 of which was in the eastern part of the county and the rest in Lawrenceburg. The sum required for an organization was \$140,000, and, of this, he pledged the city of Edinburg for \$30,000. He asked that Decatur county should subscribe, in its corporate capacity, the sum of \$100,000 to the stock of the company, to wit: \$50,000 to the line between Greensburg and Lawrenceburg, and \$25,000 each to the Rushville

and Edinburgh branches, payable when the road bed should be ready for the iron.

The committee reported at the end of the meeting a series of resolutions indorsing the scheme and appointing a committee of three in each township to circulate a petition in each township, asking the county commissioners to make a subscription to the capital stock of the company. At a meeting of the board of county commissioners, held the 5th day of June, the petitions were presented, signed by a majority of the freeholders of the county, whereupon the board made an order, that "the auditor of Decatur county be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to subscribe, on behalf of the county of Decatur, one hundred thousand dollars of stock in the Rushville & Lawrenceburg Railroad Company," under the conditions asked by the citizens' meeting.

The road was opened as far as Greensburg in the early summer of 1853. Judge Dunn died shortly after the road was finished and General Morris, of Indianapolis, became president, and by his energetic work the road was opened to that city the following year. Owing to a failure of the citizens along the Rushville and Edinburg lines to subscribe the required stock, the branches to these places were not built at this time, and the county was only called on for the fifty thousand dollars subscribed to the main line.

Stephen Ludlow was an incorporator and director of the Lawrenceburg & Indianapolis Railroad (1836), and in his honor the dinky engine that was first put on the rails was christened the "Stephen Ludlow." Fred Lungen was the engineer and Jacob W. Mills was the conductor.

From 1853 up to 1879 many efforts were made toward the building of other railroads, to all of which the county, the townships and the citizens made liberal offers of subscriptions; but, from various causes, these failed to materialize.

An organization was affected in Greensburg in 1879, which was known as the North Vernon, Greensburg & Rushville Railroad Company. This company set to work at once to procure township and individual subscriptions for the building of a railroad from North Vernon to Rushville, through Greensburg. Their efforts met with such marked success that they were able, December 15th of the same year, to let the contract for the entire work of putting the road in readiness for the cars. Col. Horace Scott, of Louisville, Kentucky, was awarded the contract, and the road was opened to Greensburg on April 15, 1880, and to Rushville on September 10, 1880.

The first shovelful of dirt for the Cincinnati & Terre Haute Railroad was thrown on Monday, June 10, 1872, at a point one-half mile east of the

home of Patrick Ewing, in Clay township. Mr. Ewing, "veteran sire of many illustrious sons," sank the first spade into the right of way. Robert Bognell, the general contractor and a number of railway officials, were present. Col. J. S. Scobey presided and made a speech, as did Will Cumback, James Gavin, Major Robbins and Judge Bonner. Others called upon to talk were: Dr. J. Y. Hitt, B. W. Wilson, J. K. Ewing, Dr. S. McGuire, S. Forsyth and David Lovett.

The Greensburg Lateral Railroad was finished to Harris City in 1876. This road was only six miles long and was owned by the Harris City Stone Company. It was an outlet for the products of this quarry and was operated by the company, they having their own dinky engine to place the cars on the North Vernon, Greensburg & Rushville tracks. This road originally ran into Greensburg, but when the Columbus, Hope & Greensburg road was built, this company took over their tracks from Quarry Switch into Greensburg.

#### GREENSBURG UNION DEPOT.

The present union depot in Greensburg was thrown open to the public for the first time on Sunday, May 16, 1909. It was built at a cost of twenty thousand dollars, and is modern in every respect.

The first depot in Greensburg was located on South Monfort street, where the freight depot is now located, and remained there from the completion of the old Indianapolis, Cincinnati & Lafayette railroad to this place in 1853, until 1865, when it was moved to Franklin street. Now it is moved back two squares beyond the first location on Monfort street to the "Y," where it will probably remain permanently.

The distance from the square is increased from one block to about six, a little less than a half mile. The new location is the proper one from the railroad point of view, as it is at the junction and obviates the former necessity of backing trains in on the Michigan division and out again, making about an extra mile for each train on that division.

The change in location made it necessary for the postoffice department to deliver the mail between the station and the postoffice, as the distance is greater than eighty rods, being in fact about one hundred and seventy rods. The first mail messenger was Louis Fultz, who started in to carry the mail on the day the new station was opened.



## INDIANAPOLIS &amp; CINCINNATI TRACTION LINE.

The Indianapolis & Cincinnati Traction Company owns the only inter-urban line coming into Decatur county. This is a direct line from Indianapolis to Greensburg. The right of way for this line was purchased from August to December, 1905, and the first car was run in 1907. The total length of the line from Indianapolis to Greensburg is forty-nine miles, of which ten and one-half miles are in Decatur county. It touches the towns of St. Paul, Adams and Greensburg, all limited cars stopping at principal towns, while the local cars stop at intermediate points. According to the present schedule, nine cars are operated each way between Greensburg and Indianapolis. The first car leaves Greensburg at six o'clock A. M., and the last one at eleven o'clock at night. Regular service is maintained at intervals of one and one-half hours daily. It is interesting to note that the car which made the initial run in 1907, is still in use. The interurban station is located at the corner of Main and East streets.

## RAILROAD STATISTICS.

The following is the complete valuation and mileage of the different railroads running through Decatur county as given in the 1914 annual report of the Bureau of Statistics:

The Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad (Big Four route) has 20.59 miles of main track, with a valuation of \$29,500 per mile, totaling \$607,405. There are 10.91 miles of second main track, valued at \$8,900 per mile, totaling \$87,200. Side-tracks of 13 miles are valued at \$4,900 per mile, totaling \$55,880. Rolling stock of 20.59 miles is valued at \$4,000 per mile, totaling \$82,360. The improvements on the right of way amount to \$18,100. The total valuation is \$851,025.

The Chicago, Terre Haute & Eastern, Westport branch, has 6.46 miles of road, valued at \$6,500 per mile; total valuation, \$41,900. There are 1.98 miles of side-track, valued at \$2,000 per mile; total valuation, \$3,960. Rolling stock of 6.46 miles is valued at \$1,500 per mile; total valuation, \$9,600. The improvements on the right of way amount to \$160. The total valuation is \$57,250.

Columbus, Hope & Greensburg Railroad has 8.98 miles of main track, valued at \$8,000 per mile; total valuation, \$71,840. Side-track of 0.27 mile is valued at \$540. Rolling stock of 8.98 miles is valued at \$1,500 per mile;

total value, \$13,470. The improvements on the right of way amount to \$160. The total valuation of the road is \$86,010.

North Vernon, Greensburg & Rushville Railroad has 24.94 miles of main track, valued at \$9,000 per mile; total value, \$224,460. Side-track of 4.19 miles is valued at \$2,000 per mile; total valuation, \$8,380. Rolling stock of 24.94 miles is valued at \$1,500 per mile; total valuation, \$37,410. Improvements on the right of way amount to \$1,505. The total valuation of the road is \$271,755.

Indianapolis & Cincinnati Traction Company has 10.41 miles of main track, valued at \$5,900 per mile; total valuation, \$61,360. The side-track of 0.37 mile is valued at \$550. Rolling stock of 10.41 miles is valued at \$500 per mile; total valuation, \$5,200. The improvements on the right of way amount to \$2,400. The total valuation of the road is \$69,515.

The total valuation for all railroads in the county is \$1,335,555.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.

For at least thirty years before the opening of the Civil War there was, in parts of Decatur county, pronounced opposition to the institution of slavery. The early settlers of the Kingston and Spring Hill neighborhoods came from that part of Kentucky where there was a violent hatred of slavery and they had not been in Decatur county many years before they began to voice, in no uncertain manner, their opposition to the slave traffic. About 1830 these worthy people took the lead in the organization of the Decatur County Colonization Society, a branch of the National Colonization Society. The ostensible purpose of this organization was to assist in freeing men of color and providing them with the means of finding a home in a new country, where the colored man might have a chance to develop himself. A few years before this time, Liberia, Africa, had been prepared for the reception of such colored people of the United States as could be induced to make it their home. However philanthropic such a scheme might have been, it did not work out well in practice and only tended to alienate many people who were really opposed to slavery. The South naturally regarded the Colonization Society with an intense hatred and the result was that they watched their slaves only the more carefully and punished the more severely those who escaped and were recaptured. Many people in the North thought that there was too much stress placed on getting a few colored people out of the country, when the energy of those opposed to the traffic had better be given to ultimate emancipation.

Many persons in Decatur county took the latter stand, with the result that, about 1835 or 1836, the more radical of the anti-slavery people of the county (most of whom lived in Fugit township) withdrew from the Colonization Society and united in the organization of the Decatur County Anti-Slavery Society. Among the leaders in this movement were Samuel Donnell, Sr., John C. McCoy, Thomas Hamilton, Alexander McCoy, Campbell McCoy, Samuel A. Donnell, Luther A. Donnell, Andrew Robison, Jr., Angus C. McCoy, and Cyrus Hamilton, of the Kingston neighborhood, and the Rankins, Andersons, Logans and others, of Spring Hill. The creed of the anti-

slavery people was, in short, that slavery was a sin—a sin for which the whole nation was responsible, and for which there was but one cure—immediate emancipation. The consequence of this second organization was a bitter and unrelenting fight between the supporters of the two societies, the creation of bickerings between neighbors, friends and relatives, and, finally schisms in the churches. It is not necessary here to say which side was in the right—they both hated slavery and differed only in their methods of dealing with it.

It is enough to say that abolitionism gradually grew and, notwithstanding the persecution and ostracism which its adherents were forced to undergo, they finally saw their fondest hopes realized. The Free-Soil party and the subsequent Republican party, founded on the remnants of the Whig and Free-Soil parties, finally forced the issue and January 1, 1863, saw the emancipation of all the slaves in the United States—and only thirty years after Decatur county had taken up the agitation in earnest.

The purpose of the present article is to deal with one phase of the anti-slavery fight in Decatur county, the so-called "underground railroad." One of the main trunk lines of this famous railroad was through the eastern part of Decatur county. Its officers and conductors were sworn to secrecy and it was many years after the close of the Civil War before some of these brave men and women told of the part which they had borne in helping to get the poor negroes through the county on their way to freedom. The story of the "underground railroad" has never been, and probably never will be told in detail. Its work was done under cover of darkness and those who received negroes at one point often did not know who had brought them that far along the line. Southward from Decatur county, the railroad branched off into several different directions. The main crossing places from Kentucky into the southeastern part of Indiana seemed to have been near Madison, Vevay and Rising Sun. Those coming across near Madison were shifted through New Marion, in Ripley county, and Zenas, in Jennings county; those landing at Vevay and Rising Sun were taken past Milan, in Ripley county. The three roads seemed to have effected a junction in Decatur county south of present McCoy's Station. From this place the route led northward along the Decatur-Franklin county line, through a small colored settlement a short distance east of Clarksburg, and thence northeast through Fayette and Wayne counties. Fugitives, on crossing the Ohio river, were met by a trained conductor—sometimes one of their own color, but oftener by a white man—who took them to the next station. Here the runaways stayed in hiding all day and on the second night another conductor



took the colored passengers on to the next station. Thus was the journey made to Canada and freedom, the nightly trips being continued until the fugitives were safely over the border. How many negroes were thus transported to Canada will never be known, but the number ran up into the thousands, and very few of them were ever captured en route or apprehended once they set foot in Canada. The passage of the fugitive slave law in 1850 so outraged the North that the business of the underground railroad increased by leaps and bounds and it became positively dangerous for slave-catchers to appear on free soil. In the escape of these runaways, the good people of Decatur county bore no small part and it is fortunate to find available a personal account of one case which is typical of scores of others which took place. This particular case, known as the "Donnell Rescue Case," was described by the late William M. Hamilton, who was one of the participants:

"I will try to relate in detail the history of the escape, capture, rescue and final escape to Canada, of a colored woman and four children, claimed as the property of George Ray, of Kentucky, in which Mr. Donnell and myself became involved in litigation before both the state and federal courts.

"In the fall of 1848, probably in October, Caroline and her four children made their way across the Ohio river near the city of Madison, Indiana. From there she was assisted on her way to Decatur county by a man named Wagoner, who was one of the regular conductors in charge of fugitives between Madison and this county. Wagoner delivered his passengers at what is now McCoy's Station, probably about two or three o'clock in the morning. Mr. McCoy at once mounted the poor woman and her four children on horses and started for the colored settlement near Clarksburg, which was not far from the home of Luther A. Donnell.

"On the way to the colored settlement, McCoy and his party came by way of my father's (Cyrus Hamilton) and asked me to accompany and assist him on to the colored settlement. When we were within a mile and a half of Clarksburg we found that we could not make the desired goal before daylight, so we stopped at the house of a colored man by the name of Pernell, who lived near. McCoy then returned home. Pernell was uneasy and seemed afraid to keep the fugitives, so I rode over to Donnell's and awakened him, telling him 'what was up,' and that Pernell was afraid to keep the people.

"Donnell said he would go over to the colored settlement and have them come and get the woman and her children. Whereupon I started back home, but soon met Pernell with the fugitives mounted on horses. It was then daylight, and he hurried on to the house of a colored woman, Jane Speed,

who lived where George Marlow now lives. The woman and children were secreted in an old house which had some hay in it. This house was located on a remote portion of her (Jane Speed's) place and not far from where Woodson Clark lived.

"This Clark was reputed to be a slave-catcher and hunter and was ever ready to obstruct the pathway of those seeking their freedom. During the day Clark saw Jane Speed's boy come away from the old house, whither he had been sent to convey food to the fugitives. This was enough to prompt an investigation of the contents of the old house by Clark. He took in the situation at a glance and told the woman she was in a very unsafe position and that he would conduct her to the colored settlement, but, instead of doing so, he took the colored woman and her children to his own house.

"The colored woman, suspecting that all was not right, asked him (Clark) where the colored people were to whom he had promised to guide her. It was then late in the evening, and he, suspecting that her friends would miss her and the children from their place of concealment and that he would be suspected, resolved to secrete them in an old fodder house on the farm of his son. At the same time Clark decided the safest thing for him to do was to tell the colored people to come and get her and the children. After several hours of waiting in the fodder house, the woman concluded that she had been betrayed, and, knowing that there was a colored settlement in the neighborhood, left her children and started out in quest of her friends. The night was dark and she, a stranger to the fields, soon lost her way.

"Leaving the woman and her children for the time, the reader's attention is called to what was being done by her friends. As soon as the fugitives were missed from the hut on Jane Speed's place (otherwise known as the Peyton place), the colored people tracked them to Clark's yard gate. They then informed Luther A. Donnell, who advised them to secure enough assistance to watch Clark's premises so as to prevent the escape of the fugitives. Mr. Donnell then held an interview with my father, and they determined to apply for a writ of habeas corpus and by legal inquiry find by what authority the fugitives were detained by Clark.

"By this time darkness was setting in. My father and Mr. Donnell applied to John Hopkins, then associate judge of Decatur county, for the required writ, which was granted. But it was found necessary to go to Greensburg to obtain the seal of the court and the attendance of the sheriff to serve the writ. The sheriff was Michael Swope, who sent the writ to a deputy named John Imlay, then living in Clarksburg, with orders to serve it.

When my father and Mr. Donnell started for Greensburg I was detained to look after the party who were watching Clark's premises. I found about twenty colored men assembled. They were very much excited and were armed with corn knives, clubs and, maybe, more deadly weapons. It was with difficulty that I restrained them from making a forced search.

"At length the deputy sheriff came, and with him Robert Hamilton, to assist in the execution of the writ. It had been arranged to have the colored men rush in a body on to the sheriff and take the fugitives by force as soon as they could be brought out of Clark's house. But the search proved fruitless and we were all 'chop fallen,' as it looked as though we had been outgeneraled. Clark appeared greatly offended and said he would see some one through with this business. He went to Clarksburg and tried to get a writ from a justice of the peace, by which he could take the slaves back to Kentucky, but, of course, failed to get one.

"Mr. Donnell, R. A. Hamilton, myself and the colored people then held a council and decided to extend the search to the premises of the two sons of Clark, who lived, one on the north and the other on the south of their father's farm. Meanwhile Mr. Donnell and myself went to Mr. Donnell's house to await developments. A short time before daylight a squad came and reported that they had found the woman near one of the Clarks. She was rambling about the fields in a state of bewilderment and did not know where her children were. She told the story of her removal to the hut and subsequent concealment in the Clark fodder house. Of course, the colored men soon found the children, and the party was once more intact and with friends.

"The colored men took the fugitives down into their neighborhood and secreted them in a deep ravine on the Bull fork of Salt creek, in Franklin county, intending to start them on their way the next night. We were greatly rejoiced at the turn things had taken, yet we felt assured that the slave-catchers would press hard after their game, having once had them in their possession.

"R. A. Hamilton returned home as soon as the search was over. After remaining at Donnell's house until the colored men had reported, I started for home, and on my way met four or five men whom I knew were slave hunters. Some were from Greensburg, and one was a stranger, who, as I afterwards learned, was the man Ray, of Kentucky, who owned the slaves. A son of Clark and a man by the name of Hobbs had been to Greensburg for a writ to enable them to secure possession of the fugitives and had given the alarm. All this had happened while the woman and children were being

found and while I was at the home of Donnell, as before related. I hurriedly changed horses and kept a watch over the slave hunters. They went through Clarksburg, and I went to Donnell's house and reported what I had seen. He proposed that we mount our horses and skirmish around the Clark premises and the colored settlement in order to see what might happen.

"We went to a horse-mill in the edge of the colored settlement. There we remained some time, but learned nothing more than that there was quite a party at Clark's house. In the afternoon the slave hunters made some demonstrations in and about the settlement and did attempt to search one or two houses, but, finding it an unsafe business, they abandoned the expedition.

"The colored people were naturally very much excited and determined. The woman was almost helpless, encumbered as she was with her children, the youngest of which was a nursing babe. They could not be moved like adults. Now, there was a colored man and his wife who had recently moved from Union county to the settlement, who had two children about the age of two of the fugitive children. Accordingly they made a bold daylight trip, with the slave woman's children instead of their own, and arrived safely at the home of William Beard, an underground railroad man and a godly Quaker, who lived beyond the reach of the pursuers.

"But the woman and two of her children were still to be disposed of. About sunset, word came that the slave hunters had discovered the hiding place of the remaining fugitives, and again we were disconsolate. We reasoned that they would bring her to Clark's house for safe keeping over night, and we resolved to try our writ again and see if it would not give us possession of the fugitives.

"Meanwhile, we had assembled at Donnell's house for supper. While we were thus mourning over our ill luck, a colored man came and announced that matters were all right—that the man who was on guard had mistaken a party of men who were returning home from a 'raisin' for the slave hunting party, but that they passed by without observing the woman's hiding place. Again our drooping spirits revived and we set ourselves to the task of planning the successful evasion of the pursuers.

"The route over which the underground railroad passengers were conveyed was through Laurel and Blooming Grove (Franklin county), crossing the East fork of White river at Fairfield, and thence on to William Beard's home in Union county. This line had been discovered by the enemy and was well watched; besides, the excitement was running high and spreading wide by this time, while our rescuing party was more determined than ever.



Heretofore we had depended upon the colored people to do the work, while we made the calculations, but Donnell's determination was now fairly aroused, and he proposed to me that we take this matter in hand and see the slaves safely through, let it cost what it might.

"Accordingly, we instructed the colored people to disguise the woman in male attire and for three or four of them to accompany her, mounted, and others on foot, to Peyton's corner, where we would meet them. They executed the details promptly and were on hand in time. We found it necessary to press through Clarksburg to reach the point we had in mind. It was a dangerous place to enter, as there were plenty of watchful slave hunters there, so we instructed her to ride to the middle of the road, flanked by a trusty colored man on either side. We had the children taken around the village of Clarksburg to about one mile beyond the town. The exit was easily made and the proposed point reached without any trouble. We then dismissed the colored men and resolved to keep our own council.

"The woman was mounted on a horse with one of us and the children with the other, and thus we rode through Spring Hill and to the home of Thomas Donnell, about one mile west of that village. Day was breaking and Luther A. Donnell awakened his brother, Thomas, who assisted him in hiding the slaves in an out-of-the-way building, while I took charge of the horses. During the next day the refugees were fed by two children of the Donnell family. Luther Donnell and myself returned to our homes with the understanding that we were to meet at the house of John R. Donnell that night at ten o'clock for the purpose of making final disposition of the fugitives.

"We met pursuant to our agreement and at this juncture we pressed Lowry Donnell and John R. Donnell into service. The latter entered into the arrangement with a hearty good will by bringing out his fine carriage, with closed top and side curtains. The woman and children had been provided with plenty of warm woolen clothing, and, being doubly veiled, were placed in the carriage and started on their way to freedom.

"The party was composed of Luther A. Donnell, John R. Donnell, Lowry Donnell, Robert Stout, Nathaniel Thompson and myself. Stout and Thompson only went with us as far as New Salem, Rush county."

The narrative of Mr. Hamilton goes on to tell of the details of the journey, which was devoid of any striking incidents. After a drive of twenty-four hours, with only a short rest to feed the horses, the party arrived at William Beard's home in Union county, where they received a

warm welcome. The rescuers returned home the next day, with men and horses worn and jaded, carriage springs broken, and with the experience of one of the most interesting incidents of the underground railroad which ever occurred in the state. The poor slave woman was given her four children, reached Canada eventually, and in after years wrote to Donnell, expressing her great thankfulness for his assistance.

But Donnell was not yet through with his connection with the case. The slave hunters were determined to have their revenge for the shrewd way in which they were outwitted. Having lost their chattels and been defeated in their attempts to recover them, the slave owner and his sympathizers resolved to take advantage offered by a state statute then supposed to be in force in Indiana. Accordingly, a few days later, a grand jury of Decatur county indicted Luther A. Donnell for "aiding and abetting the escape of fugitives from labor," etc. The case came up for trial at the March term of court, 1849. George H. Dunn was the presiding judge and John<sup>\*</sup>Hopkins and Samuel Ellis, associate judges. The jury was composed of twelve men of the county. The state was represented by John S. Scobey, prosecuting attorney, and Andrew Davidson, later a supreme judge of Indiana. The defense was in the hands of John Ryman, of Lawrenceburg, and Joseph Robinson and Philander Hamilton, of Greensburg.

On the calling of the case, the defense moved to quash the indictment on the grounds set forth in the case of *Prigg vs. Pennsylvania*, in which it was held that state legislation for the recovery of fugitives from labor in other states, or for aiding the escape of such, was unconstitutional. The motion was overruled and the trial proceeded. The evidence is too voluminous for the purpose at hand and only a summary of it will be given. The evidence in the case seemed to turn on the positive statement of Richard Clark (one of the sons mentioned), who testified that the woman and children were placed in his fodder house about two o'clock of Monday and that between three and four o'clock the next morning they were taken out by Luther A. Donnell and William Hamilton, which the reader will notice is widely at variance with the facts, as stated in Hamilton's account. But in those days, a man could not testify in his own behalf, neither could a colored man testify in a case where a white man was interested. There was some conflicting testimony in this case, but the popular voice was unfavorable to the defense and the verdict was against the defendant. Donnell appealed the case to the supreme court of Indiana. The result is here given in the words of the record:

"Donnell vs. State.

"Perkins, Judge. Error to the Decatur Circuit Court.

"This was an indictment against Luther A. Donnell, containing two counts; one charging him with inducing the escape of, and the other with secreting a woman of color, called Caroline, then being the slave of and owing service to George Ray, of Kentucky. The defendant was convicted. The section of the statute of our state upon which the indictment was grounded, according to the decision in *Prigg vs. Pennsylvania*, is unconstitutional and void. The conviction on it was, therefore, erroneous." (Porter's Indiana Reports, Vol. III, page 480.)

Encouraged by the advantages gained here in a criminal action, and by the popular clamor, Ray brought suit in the United States court at Indianapolis, to recover the value of his property, and obtained a judgment for fifteen hundred dollars, which, with costs, amounted to about three thousand dollars. This was promptly paid by the defendants to the last dollar. It is interesting to note that this full amount was refunded to the defendants by the anti-slavery men of the state and neighborhood, aided by some who were publicly known to be in sympathy with the movement.

Thus ended one of the most exciting legal contests ever held in the state; in fact, the effect on the popular mind was rather unfavorable to the slave-catching interests here, and caused many who had before been indifferent toward the anti-slavery agitators to take a decided stand for or against that issue. No other efforts were made to recover escaped slaves in Decatur county, although from then to the outbreak of the war the "underground railroad" was in full operation. It is said that not one slave in a thousand was ever recovered by the owners in the decade preceding the Civil War.

The fugitive slave law of 1850 was heartily denounced in many pulpits in Decatur county immediately after its passage, and a minister of Kingston probably voiced the sentiment of a majority of the people of the county when he said in the pulpit at the end of one of his sermons: "It is well known to you that the fugitive slave bill has become a law. To a law framed of such iniquity I owe no allegiance. Humanity, Christianity and manhood revolt against it. For myself—I say it solemnly—I will shelter, I will help, I will defend the fugitive with all my humble means and power. I will act with any body of decent and serious men, as the head, or foot, or hand, in any mode not involving the use of deadly weapons, to nullify and defeat the operation of this law." While this courageous preacher undoubtedly expressed the sentiments of most of the people of the county, yet there were not a few who had no sympathy whatever with the slave. Many of

the early settlers of the county came from Kentucky and Tennessee and, if the facts were known, it could be shown that some of these Southerners brought slaves here with them and held them as such. The government census of 1830 disclosed the startling fact that there was one negro girl in Decatur county who was returned as a slave.

The Knights of the Golden Circle had a large following in Decatur county during the Civil War and were especially strong in Jackson township. They were responsible for most of the depredations committed in that township during the latter part of the war. Apropos of this traitorous organization, an interesting story is told of old "Uncle" Dan Pike, who lived in Jackson township near Alert. The worthy old gentleman was an avowed Southern sympathizer and a great lover of fine horses, of which he had a large number. At the time Morgan made his raid through southern Indiana in the summer of 1863, Uncle Dan had some misgivings about the safety of his fine horses. He thought, however, that he was too far north for Morgan, but he was destined to change his opinion of the safety of his horses. On a sweltering day in July a detachment of Morgan's men actually appeared before his home and in no uncertain manner demanded some of his fine horses. Southern sympathizer that he was, he was determined that no horse of his should leave the barn if he could help it. Taking his trusty old flint-lock in his hands, he stationed himself near the stable door and defied a man to attempt to take a single horse out of the stable. "The first man who goes into that stable door gets a slug of hot shot." The soldiers told him that he would only bring about his own death and in no way save his horses. "That don't make no difference—it will not save the man who goes into my stable," retorted the old man. The upshot of the matter was that they left Uncle Dan safe in the possession of all of his beloved horses.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

### DECATUR COUNTY'S MILITARY RECORD.

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#### SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTION IN DECATUR COUNTY.

The following is an authentic list of soldiers of the Revolutionary War who lived and are buried in Decatur county, Indiana, the list having been prepared in May, 1901 :

Thomas Hooten, buried in Sand Creek cemetery, near Greensburg, has a tombstone stating that he was a soldier of the War of 1776 to 1783. He died on July 26, 1841, aged eighty-nine years, two months and twenty-six days.

John Pemberton was also buried in Sand Creek cemetery and has a tombstone stating he was a soldier of the War for Independence. He died on June 5, 1845, aged eighty-two years, ten months and fifteen days.

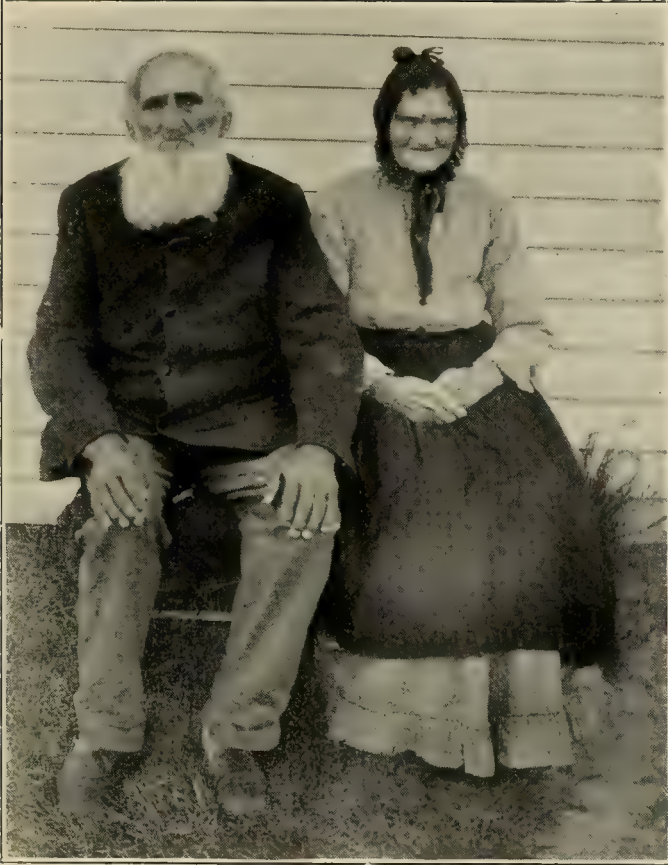
Samuel Brown is buried at Wesley Chapel cemetery. There is a broken slab, the inscription being almost entirely defaced. It is believed that he was a soldier of the Revolution.

A soldier, named Kirby, was known to be a soldier of 1776 by several person in this county and the grave can be located. He is buried in what is known as Burke Chapel cemetery, five miles south of Greensburg. No headstone. Command unknown.

Hugh Montgomery is buried in a private cemetery on a farm owned by William M. Hamilton, formerly known as the Antrobus farm. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary War, and also of the War of 1812. He had three sons, Thomas, Henry and William, in the War of 1812. William was killed in battle. Henry died and is buried near his father in Antrobus cemetery. The headstone was placed by descendants.

John Gilleland, who served in the War of 1776, is buried on what is now known as the Gilmore farm, in a small country cemetery. The grave is grown over with brush and briars, but a small tombstone, with the inscription almost obliterated, marks the grave.

George King, buried in the cemetery at Milford, is known to have been a soldier of the War of the Revolution. The grave can be located by grand-



MR. AND MRS. JOHN FINNERN, LATE OF GREENSBURG, THE ONLY MARRIED  
COUPLE WHO SERVED TOGETHER DURING THE CIVIL WAR.



children and others. The headstone was furnished by the war department and placed under charge of William Tateman, sexton.

James Crawford, also of the War of 1776, is buried alongside King. There is a headstone, giving name, also that he died in February, 1836, aged seventy-nine years. The headstone, placed by William Tateman, sexton, was furnished, on requisition, by the war department.

Wheeler is the last name of another soldier of 1776, who was buried in the group. None of his relatives are in this part of the country. These three men just mentioned were well acquainted and associates before they died. They are buried southeast and a few feet from a beech tree. It is not known whether or not King, Crawford or Wheeler were pensioners.

Joseph Morris, born in 1761, died in Greensburg, Indiana, in 1849. He was buried in the old cemetery and the remains were removed, but the grave cannot be located. His wife also died in Greensburg. He was nineteen years old when he enlisted and it is known that he served to the end of the Revolutionary War. Parties lived in this county who knew this soldier. The above information was given by a relative.

Thomas Meek, Sr., father of Adam R. Meek, a soldier of the War of 1812, was a soldier of the War for Independence. He came from Virginia and is buried in the cemetery at Springhill, Indiana. He was born in 1756, and died in 1838. A good stone marks the grave, from which the above dates are taken.

John Collins, born in 1757, died near Kingston in 1848, and is buried in the cemetery at Kingston. It is believed he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The dates are taken from a headstone at the grave.

John DeMoss was born in South Carolina about 1760, removed to Virginia and probably went as a soldier from that state. He came to Indiana with his family and died in a cabin on what is now known as the Robert Braden farm, owned by Jeremy Braden, being buried on the adjoining farm, owned by Milton Byers, located in Clay township, this county, in an old cemetery. The grave was located by Ralph Pavey, who was at the interment. There are two stones, without inscription, that mark the grave. It is confidently believed that he was a soldier of the War of Independence. The headstone was furnished by the war department and placed by a descendant.

Lovejoy, initials not known, was buried at the Downeyville cemetery. It is thought he was a soldier of the War of 1776. No headstone. Probably of the War of 1812.

Joseph Lee, believed to have been a soldier of the Revolution, went from



New Jersey and is buried at Shiloh cemetery. The headstone bears the date of death, etc.

John O. Gullion, it is said, was a soldier of the War of 1776. He went from Virginia. He is buried on the Spillman farm near Shiloh. The grave cannot be located, no headstone remaining.

Levi Weston is buried in South Park cemetery, Greensburg, on the east side, near two pine trees. There is a headstone stating that he was a soldier of the War of 1776. He died on June 9, 1852, aged ninety-nine years and thirteen days.

Ichabod Parker, of the War of the Revolution, was buried in Sand-creek cemetery. There is a headstone, on which is inscribed the fact that he was a soldier of the Revolution, giving date of death, etc.

Jeremiah I. Dogan, of the War of 1776, was a pensioner. He drew his pension through the Madison agency, at an early day. He died on April 14, 1857, aged about ninety years. He was a Virginian, and was buried at Mt. Carmel cemetery. There was a headstone. The grave could probably be located.

#### HUGH MONTGOMERY.

Hugh Montgomery and wife are buried in the Watts graveyard on the Lanham farm. Before the war, he came to the colonies from Ireland with two brothers. His brothers fought with the British, but Hugh Montgomery cast his lot with the thirteen colonies. He served for three years in the company commanded by John Sullivan, of Colonel Russel's Ninth Virginia Regiment.

When the war was over, Hugh Montgomery moved to Ohio, and later to Decatur county, and, on October 7, 1822, applied for a pension, claiming that he was no longer able to support himself. In his application for a pension he listed his worldly possessions as follows: One mare, \$25; one cow and calf, \$12; four sheep, \$4; two shoats, \$3; two pots and bed, \$17.50; total, \$61.50. He then makes the following declaration:

"In pursuance of the act of May, 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident of the United States on the 18th day of May, 1818, and that I have not since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent thereby to diminish it, so as to bring myself within the provisions of an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval forces of the United States in the Revolutionary War, passed on the 18th day of March, 1818."

Concerning the application of Montgomery for a pension, the following letter is still preserved:

"War Department, Pension Office, March 29th, 1824.

"Hon. James Noble, Senate, United States:

"Sir—I have, on examining the papers in the case of Hugh Montgomery, every reason to believe that the one who now lives in Decatur county, Indiana, is the same person who resided in Ohio three years ago and whose application for a pension was then rejected on account of his property. You will perceive, by referring to your letter to him, which is herewith returned, that he was required to prove that he was not the same person who lived in Ohio; instead of which, all the evidence that has any bearing on the subject goes to show that he lived in the very same county and state (Butler, Ohio) from which the first application was made. The claim, of course, cannot be allowed. The papers which you sent to me will remain upon our files, agreeably to the regulations of the war department.

"I am respectfully,

"Your Obt. Servt.,

"J. L. EDWARDS."

Three sons of Montgomery fought in the War of 1812. They were Thomas, William and Henry Montgomery. William was killed in battle and Thomas is buried in South Park cemetery. Henry Montgomery is buried beside his father in the Antrobus cemetery.

#### SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF 1812 IN DECATUR COUNTY.

David Bailey, a pensioner of the War of 1812, was paid through the Indianapolis agency. He served in Captain Hawkins' and Captain Gray's companies, the Seventeenth and Third United States Infantry. His pension certificate, which bore the number 3255, came into the possession of his daughter, Mrs. Perry Tremain, residing near Greensburg. David Bailey died in the city of Greensburg on March 6, 1879, aged eighty-one years and ten months, and was buried in South Park cemetery. There is no headstone, but there is a staff and the grave has been decorated. Application was made to the war department for a gravestone.

George Myers was a pensioner of the War of 1812 and on the list of pensioners in the Indianapolis agency. No service given. He was buried in a cemetery near Harris City and has a monument with inscription of himself and wife. He had a son living in the county named William Myers.

This information was secured through a granddaughter, Mrs. L. E. Johnson, in Greensburg.

William Billington (written "Bellington" on the rolls of the Indianapolis pension agency), belonged to Capt. Harry Ellis's Kentucky militia and was in Hull's surrender. He was born on September 11, 1788, died on September 20, 1874, and was buried in the cemetery at Union church. There is a broken slab at the grave.

Joseph Frakes, a soldier of the War of 1812, belonged to the "Kentucky Rangers." He went from Mason county, Kentucky. He was born on June 6, 1771, died on June 9, 1854, and was buried in the cemetery at Union church, near the grave of R. M. Hayes. There was a slab at the grave, broken in fragments, from which this data was taken.

Daniel S. Perry, a pensioner on the roll of the Indianapolis pension agency, was born in Scott county, Kentucky, on October 9, 1791. He was a son of Henry Perry, a soldier of the Revolutionary War. He enlisted and served in the Kentucky militia, command not known. In the year 1811 he was in a cavalry branch of the United States service. He served under General Harrison. He came to Decatur county on March 3, 1823, and died on October 27, 1872. He is buried in what is known as the Ross cemetery, three miles east of Greensburg. His grave is marked by a headstone, in good condition, but there is nothing on it to indicate that he was a soldier of the War of 1812. A son and other descendants resided in this county.

George Silva, known to have been a soldier in the War of 1812, was born near Fredericksburg, Virginia. He died in April, 1849, and is buried in the cemetery at Clarksburg. There is no stone, but the grave was located by a granddaughter, Mrs. Burns, of Clarksburg.

William Butcher, a soldier of the War of 1812, was captured at the battle of River Raisin. He is buried at Mount Carmel, but the grave cannot be located. It is not known whether he was a pensioner or not, but it is probable that he was.

Henry Miller, a pensioner of the War of 1812, was buried at Mount Carmel. There is no information as to his services. There is a monument, and the age and date of birth are on that. John S. Miller stated that Henry Miller was captured at the battle of River Raisin and W. A. Donnell knew he was a pensioner.

William Beetem, a pensioner of the War of 1812, was buried at Clarksburg. There is no headstone at this time and the grave cannot be located.

John Butler was a soldier of the War of 1812. It is not known to what command he belonged; perhaps the Kentucky militia. He moved to Indiana at an early day and settled on his farm, six miles east of Old Vernon. His wife dying, he married Mrs. Editha Myers, widow of Thomas H. Myers, and lived and died on the old Myers homestead, one mile east of Milford. He was buried in what, to the old settlers, was known as the Douglas graveyard, later called the Wesley Chapel cemetery, located on the Nelson Mowrey home farm. There is a slab at the grave, broken near the ground. He came to Decatur county in 1847 and died in 1860. A daughter of John Butler, by the name of Nancy Neal, lived near Lebanon, Boone county, Indiana. John Butler was the father of John F. Butler, deceased; Col. Harvey Butler, and stepfather of John L. Evans, Sanford Myers, Mrs. Bean and Mrs. Margaret Jackson.

Thomas Campbell, of the War of 1812, Captain Deshold's Virginia militia, was a pensioner on the roll of the Indianapolis agency; his post-office was Westport. He died on May 26, 1879, and is buried in the McCammon cemetery, five miles south of Westport. There is a headstone.

John P. Oakley, a soldier of the War of 1812, lived in this county for a number of years. He was buried in Antioch, old Christian church, alongside his wife and several children. There is a headstone.

Israel Gibson was a soldier of the War of 1812. His wife was a pensioner. He was buried in South Park cemetery, Greensburg, about one hundred feet south of the vault. There is a slab on which is inscribed his name and a Masonic emblem, but no other inscription. He belonged to a Pennsylvania command.

William Hood, a pensioner on the Indianapolis rolls, belonged to Captain Mathews' Kentucky Militia. He is buried at Spring Hill and has a monument. There was a son, Thomas Hood, and two daughters, Mrs. Riley and Mrs. Foley, residing in Decatur county, Indiana.

Mackie Elliott, a soldier of the War of 1812, is buried in the cemetery one-half mile west of the Nauvoo school house, and has a monument. Mackie Elliott and his brother, Robert, served alternately during the War of 1812. Two sons, John and Robert Elliott, resided in the city of Greensburg.

Henry Critzer, of the War of 1812, is buried in the Milford cemetery. He has a monument on which is inscribed the fact that he was in Hull's surrender. He served during the war. His wife, Martha Critzer, drew a pension.

Hartwell Knight, of the War of 1812, was not a pensioner, but received a land warrant for services during that war. His resting place, in the Mil-



ford cemetery, is marked with a small headstone, with inscription of age and death.

Henry Barr, a pensioner of the War of 1812 and buried on the home farm in Clay township, has a monument. Mrs. Achsah Harrell, of Milford, this county, was a daughter of Henry Barr.

Andrew Robinson, Sr., born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, on the 1st of January, 1793, died on August 28, 1884, and is buried in the Kingston cemetery. He was a soldier in Captain Hutchinson's company, of Kentucky volunteers, and was on the rolls of the Indianapolis agency. There is a monument.

John Robertson, of Captain Gray's Kentucky Militia, was a pensioner on the rolls of the Indianapolis agency. He was also a captain of an artillery company in the Indiana Militia in the Fifty-fifth Regiment. His pension certificate, dated December 6, 1871, is in possession of his descendants. He was born on March 15, 1796, and died on December 2, 1881, being interred at Downeyville, this county. There is a good tombstone.

It is almost certain that Joseph Mazingo was a soldier in the War of 1812. He was in a Kentucky battalion, name or number unknown. This man was buried in what is known as the McConnell cemetery, located on the Greene Barnes farm, two miles southeast of Greensburg. There is a rough stone, but no inscription. The grave was located and a staff placed at the grave, which was decorated on May 30, 1901.

Thomas Mazingo, a brother of Joseph, also lived and died in this county. He was a soldier of the War of 1812, went from Virginia, and was an officer in his company. He lived one-half mile south of the village of Smyrna, on what is now known as the Martin farm. He is buried in an old cemetery on that farm, on a knoll, southwest of the house. His wife was known as "Aunt Milla" and was buried beside her husband. These graves were located by Mr. Martin from personal knowledge of the parties, whom he knew when a young man. There are two rough stones at the heads of these graves without inscriptions.

Joseph and Thomas Mazingo were the sons of Spencer Mazingo, who was a soldier of the War for Independence, and went from Culpeper county, Virginia. Thomas Mazingo's grave was decorated on May 30, 1901.

John Sanders, who is buried at Mount Pisgah, this county, is thought to have been a soldier of the War of 1812.

William Evans, who is buried at the Union church, near Forest Hill, it is thought was a soldier of the War of 1812. William Evans moved to Jackson township, this county, in 1833, and he died in 1864.

Owen W. Blackmore, of Captain Ireland's Virginia Militia, War of 1812, was on the rolls of the Indianapolis agency. His postoffice was Kingston and he is probably buried at that place, though the grave has not been located.

Valentine Pollard, of Captain Ireland's Virginia Militia, was on the Indianapolis Pension Agency rolls. His postoffice was Greensburg. He was probably buried in the old cemetery, at the southeast corner of the present boundaries of the city of Greensburg. If the remains were ever removed, it is likely the grave was not marked.

William Bird was a soldier in the War of 1812. His widow, Maria Bird, drew a pension. He is buried at Shiloh and has a monument. There are numerous descendants of William and Maria Bird residing in Decatur county.

William W. Pierce belonged to Capt. John Howe's New York Militia and was on the pension rolls of the Indianapolis agency. His postoffice was St. Paul, in the neighborhood of which he lived until his death, on March 4, 1876. He is probably buried in a cemetery located on the farm formerly owned by "Colonel" W. W. Pierce. The cemetery is east of Mill creek and north of the Michigan road.

Richard Wells, a soldier of the War of 1812, is buried in the Wesley Chapel cemetery on the Nelson Mowery farm. It is impossible to locate the grave with certainty.

James Truitt, a soldier in the War of 1812, was also a pensioner. He lived at St. Omer, but, so far, it has not been possible to locate the grave. It is certain he was a pensioner.

Jacob Forrey, of the War of 1812, was a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and served as a private in Capt. Valentine Geesey's company of Pennsylvania Volunteers, called the "Brownsville Blues." In the year 1845, he came to Indiana and bought some land in Fugit township, this county, two and one-half miles east of Clarksburg, where he remained until his death, January 27, 1865, aged seventy-nine years. He received two land warrants. Under the Act of March, 1878, his widow was granted a pension, which she received until her death, January 16, 1884. He was buried in the Clarksburg cemetery. There is a monument but nothing on the monument to show he was a soldier. The father of Jacob Forrey and an uncle were soldiers of the Revolutionary War, and are buried in this state. This information was furnished by Mrs. Sarah E. Winker, a daughter of Jacob Forrey.

John Caldwell is known to have been a soldier of the War of 1812.

Charles Kemble, of Greensburg, knew him for many years. He lived and died in Adams township. He was buried in the Union Church cemetery. Caldwell was taken captive by the Indians and adopted. After three years, he made his escape and returned to Kentucky, his former home. There is a small monument, broken, from which the following dates are taken: Born, January 20, 1790, died April 20, 1874.

Isaac Fisk Stine was a soldier of the War of 1812, and is buried in South Park cemetery on the "old lot" of Barton H. Harney. He was buried in the cemetery at the southeastern border of the present city of Greensburg, and, later, was removed to South Park. He entered the war from Greene county, Pennsylvania, and was captain of a "Light Horse Company." He died in June, 1833. There is no headstone, but application has been made for one, of the War Department. The grave was decorated on May 30, 1901.

Christian Hegersweiler, who is believed to have been a soldier of 1812, was buried at Roszburg cemetery, but the grave cannot be located.

George Marlow was a soldier drafted into the War of 1812. His colonel was named Ballou and was in the command of General Portersfield. He was born in Culpeper county, Virginia, on August 28, 1787, and died on December 11, 1859, being buried at Clarksburg alongside his wife. There is a small headstone, giving date of birth and death. He came to Indiana about 1821, located on a farm in Fugit township, on which he lived until his death. He never applied for a pension.

Samuel Marlow, a brother of George Marlow, was also drafted in the War of 1812, was in the same company and under General Portersfield, and served until his discharge, at the close of the war. He came to Indiana the last of February, 1821, settled in Fugit township, and lived on his land until his death, December 25, 1821. He was buried on the same farm, near two trees which are still standing. There is no headstone, but the grave can be located.

Daniel McCormack was a soldier of the War of 1812, belonged to the Kentucky Militia, is buried at Union church, five miles south of Greensburg. There is a monument on which the age is given.

James Elder, a soldier of the War of 1812, is buried in the Sand Creek cemetery. He has a monument for himself and two wives.

John Ammermon, a soldier of the War of 1812, lived in this county several years before his death. No relatives are known to be in the county, neither can the grave be located. He was buried at Roszburg.

Elisha Adams was a pensioner on the Indianapolis roll. There is a

good gravestone from which the following inscription is taken: "Born April 7, 1792. Died November 9, 1883." The pension roll shows that he was a private in Captain Ogden's Battery, Third New Jersey Artillery. He was buried at Clarksburg. His widow lived in Greensburg and drew a pension.

Robert Hamilton was captain of a company of Kentucky riflemen in the War of 1812. He was born on June 17, 1768, and died on June 17, 1817. He served in the garrison at Vincennes, Indiana. Buried at Old Concord, Kentucky, he was removed to Decatur county by his grandson, Robert A. Hamilton, and rests by the side of his wife in the cemetery at Kingston. There is a good tombstone.

William Robbins, Sr., a soldier of the War of 1812 and probably of the War of 1776, died in 1834, and was buried at Mt. Pleasant cemetery, alongside his wife. There is a headstone with an inscription to some extent obliterated. He was the father of William Robbins, Jr., who was the father of John E. Robbins, deceased; James G., Merritt H. and Mrs. William Styers, all residents of Decatur county. This family came to Kentucky from Virginia, and to Indiana at an early date.

Adam R. Meek was a soldier in Captain Metcalf's company, in Colonel Boswell's Regiment, "Kentucky Rifles," under General Harrison at the battle of Thames. He was a native of Fayette county, Kentucky, born on December 15, 1789, and died in Decatur county, Indiana, being buried at Springhill alongside his wife. He was a pensioner, as was also his wife after his death. There is a headstone in good condition.

John Gray was a soldier of the War of 1812. After his death his widow married William Walters. After the latter's death she drew a pension as the widow of John Gray and lived several years near the city of Greensburg. John Gray died on April 5, 1836. He has a large, erect slab in good condition, from which the dates given above are taken.

Byard Elmore, a pensioner on the rolls of the Indianapolis agency, belonged to Capt. James McQuire's Indiana militia. He was born in April, 1790, and died on October 15, 1878, aged eighty-eight years. Has a headstone, and is buried in the Kingston cemetery.

Thomas I. Glass was a soldier of the War of 1812. He was buried in the Kingston cemetery. He has a headstone, from which these dates are taken. He died on November 16, 1855, aged seventy-seven years.

Joseph Mitchell served in the War of 1812 as a private under General Harrison. He was buried at the Kingston cemetery. He has a good head-



stone, which shows that he died on October 7, 1868, aged eighty-three years. There are no descendants known to be living in this county.

Willis Gulley, soldier of the War of 1812, came to this county from Kentucky. It is known by residents of Decatur county that he was buried at the Downeyville cemetery.

John Moulton was a soldier of the War of 1812. The most of his time while in the service was spent in a block house at the mouth of Laughery creek, on the Ohio river, in this state, for the defense of the few settlers in that vicinity. He was born in Pennsylvania, March 24, 1793. His parents came to Kentucky and located in Nicolas county. He was married to Susannah Ricketts in 1814, and came to Decatur county in 1824, locating four miles east of Greensburg. He was killed by a horse, on May 8, 1844, and was buried in the Ross graveyard, three miles east of Greensburg. The headstone and grave are in good condition. John Moulton was a noted hunter in his day. He and two others cut out the Brookville road from near Greensburg to the Franklin county line. He has descendants living in Decatur county. He was probably not a pensioner, but it is possible that his wife was.

Thomas Martin.

George Kerrick is said to have been a soldier of the War of 1812. He is buried at Mt. Carmel and has a good headstone.

Seth Wilder served in Captain Clark's militia in the War of 1812. His name was on the pension rolls of the Indianapolis agency. His postoffice was St. Paul. He died at St. Omer and is buried at that place. There is a headstone.

Samuel Ferguson, a soldier of the War of 1812, lived and died at St. Omer, and was buried in the cemetery at that place.

Frederick W. Dillman, a soldier of the War of 1812, lived and died in Decatur county, but is buried just over the line in Bartholomew county. He was the father of Jacob A. Dillman, of this county.

Mason Watts, known to have been a soldier of the War of 1812, lived in Jackson township, in this county. He was buried in Ripley county, Indiana.

James Wise, a son-in-law of Mason Watts, was also a soldier of the War of 1812. He lived in Decatur county for several years, afterwards moving to Brown county, where his death occurred.

Samuel Eli was probably in the War of 1812. He died in Jackson township, but it is not known where he is buried.

Brumfield Boone, born on November 6, 1791, served in a garrison in

Kentucky. He died near Greensburg, Indiana, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Thomas Kitchen, who lives in Greensburg, on January 19, 1875, and was buried in the old Methodist cemetery, now part of the South Park cemetery. Enlisting at the beginning of the War of 1812, at the end of his term he re-enlisted, as a substitute. He served in the brigade commanded by General Gano, in General Harrison's army, until the end of the war. He was in several battles, but the papers giving the names of the battles and other facts are mislaid and cannot be found. The family came from North Carolina, and were related to Daniel Boone. Mrs. Turner, another daughter, also lived in Greensburg.

John Pritchard, of the War of 1812, was buried in Sandcreek cemetery. He died in 1841, aged sixty-seven years.

#### MEXICAN WAR.

Decatur county furnished a small quota of men for the Mexican War (1846-48) and, although the state did not keep the record of volunteers by counties, it has been ascertained that from fifty to seventy-five men enlisted from Decatur county during the progress of the war. Indiana furnished five regiments, totaling four thousand four hundred and seventy officers and privates, to the government.

Capt. Morgan L. Payne raised a part of a company in the county and secured the rest of his company at Lawrenceburg. This was Company C, Fourth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, and when it was mustered into the service it was placed under the immediate command of Col. Willis A. Gorman. J. V. Bemusdaffier was the first lieutenant of this company and W. W. Love was also a member of the same company.

Lieut. William P. Sanders was a student at Hanover College when the war opened, but he immediately left college, volunteered, and later became an officer in the mounted infantry of Kentucky. He was killed at the battle of Cerro Gordo, April 18, 1847. Sanders was a brother of Mrs. P. T. Lambert, of Greensburg, and the late Mrs. R. A. Hamilton.

Major J. M. Talbott was another prominent man from Greensburg who won distinction in the Mexican War. He raised a company here known as the Decatur County Volunteers. Governor Whitcomb had asked for thirty companies, and Talbott's company being the thirty-eighth to report, it was not needed. Talbott was elected captain of his company; J. E. Housier, first lieutenant; J. B. Lathrop, second lieutenant. Houser rode all night as soon as the company was full in order to report to the governor

that Decatur county had a company ready to go to the front, but he was five hours too late to get the company in. Talbott later joined the Sixteenth Regiment of United States Regulars, was promoted to major for meritorious work on the field of battle, and died in 1848, while in the service in Mexico.

Other men from this county who served in the war included McHenry Pumphrey, Robert Favors, Robert, Eli and Joseph Critser, Benjamin Jenkins, E. L. Floyd, Benjamin Ricketts, James Morgan, Alexander Edwards, John Larrison, Robert Myers, Tarlton Caldwell and Elijah Hines. There were others, probably fifty in all, who served in the war from this county, but their names have not been preserved.

#### CIVIL WAR.

On Saturday morning, April 12, 1861, the first shot from the Confederate batteries in Charleston harbor fell on the rampart of Ft. Sumter. Young men, middle-aged men, old men, stood around the telegraph offices all over the United States on that day, waiting to hear the result of the attack. When it was known that the fort had fallen, a cry went up throughout the North—an insistent cry that active steps be taken at once to crush the incipient rebellion. On that Saturday night men stood in groups, with clenched fists and beating hearts, from the knobs of the Ohio to the sand hills of Lake Michigan, patiently waiting to hear whether the brave seventy in the fort could withstand the ten thousand raging Rebels who were attacking them. At ten o'clock that night, the news was flashed over the country that "Sumter has fallen."

On the Sunday morning following there was scarcely a pulpit in the North but what spoke of the terrible event. Indiana ministers, with few exceptions, were loyal to the Union and demanded from the pulpit that the country's honor should be upheld at all costs. On the morning of April 15, Governor Morton telegraphed President Lincoln an offer of ten thousand men. On this same day the President issued a proclamation calling for seventy-five thousand volunteers. Every county in the state was called upon by the governor for troops, and, although the state's quota was only four thousand, six hundred and eighty-three, yet within ten days there were twelve thousand men in Indianapolis ready for service.

For the three-year service Decatur county furnished twenty-six companies of infantry and cavalry, and one battery. The following is the roster of the commissioned officers, with the regiments in which they served:

SEVENTH REGIMENT.

Colonels, James Gavin and Ira G. Grover; lieutenant-colonels, James Gavin and Ira G. Grover; majors, Benjamin C. Shaw, Ira G. Grover and Merritt C. Welsh; surgeons, George W. New and John L. Wooden.

*Company D*—Captains, Merritt C. Welsh and Charles Griffith; first lieutenants, Robert Braden, Charles Griffith, Henry Knight and James Leggett; second lieutenants, Charles Griffith, Henry Knight and James Leggett.

*Company E*—Captains, Ira G. Grover, David W. Hamilton, George P. Clayton and Jenkins F. Anderson; first lieutenants, D. W. Hamilton, W. D. Jocelyn, George P. Clayton, Charles F. Atwater, J. F. Anderson and Robert F. King; second lieutenants, William D. Jocelyn, John M. Hazen, George P. Clayton and Charles F. Atwater.

*Company G*—Captains, Benjamin C. Shaw, Wilson C. Lambert, Martin W. Richardson and John A. Meek; first lieutenants, W. C. Lambert, M. W. Richardson, John A. Meek, Orville Thomson, Samuel L. Anderson, David B. Gageby and Milo Robertson; second lieutenants, M. W. Richardson, John A. Meek, Orville Thomson, S. L. Anderson and D. B. Gageby.

SEVENTEENTH REGIMENT.

Colonel, John T. Wilder, promoted to brigadier-general; surgeon, Dr. J. Y. Hitt.

THIRTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT.

Adjutants, William B. Harvey and Livingston Howland.

*Company E*—Captains, Mahlon C. Connett, Frank Hughes and William B. Harvey; first lieutenants, Frank Hughes, William B. Harvey and George Hungate; second lieutenants, Andrew J. Hungate, William B. Harvey and George W. Hungate.

*Company H*—Captains, William H. Tyner, Quartus C. Moore, George W. Dye, James H. Burk and John L. Hice; first lieutenants, Q. C. Moore, G. W. Pye, James H. Burk, John L. Hice and Augustus H. Tevis; second lieutenants, George W. Pye, J. H. Burk, J. L. Hice and A. H. Tevis.



## FIFTY-SECOND REGIMENT.

Major, William T. Strickland.

*Company B*—Captains, W. T. Strickland and William T. Stott; first lieutenants, James A. Cunningham, William T. Stott, James C. Alden and William B. Robbins; second lieutenants, William T. Stott and Edwin Alexander.

## SIXTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT.

Colonel, John S. Scobey; lieutenant-Colonel, B. C. Shaw; major, John S. Scobey; chaplain, David Monfort; surgeon, John L. Wooden.

*Company A*—Captains, John S. Scobey and Giles E. White; first lieutenants, Giles E. White and Reuben Jones; second lieutenants, Reuben Jones and Moses Bailey.

## SEVENTY-SIXTH REGIMENT (THIRTY DAYS.)

Colonel, James Gavin; lieutenant-colonel, John T. Wilder; adjutant, Irvin Robbins; quartermaster, Samuel A. Bonner.

*Company A*—Captain, Luther Donnell; first lieutenant, Hugh Weston; second lieutenant, B. H. Harney.

*Company B*—Captain, Benjamin Jenkins; first lieutenant, Samuel Walker; second lieutenant, Peter Norris.

*Company C*—Captain, Robert M. Higgins; first lieutenant, William Alyea; second lieutenant, William M. Fletcher.

*Company D*—Captain, Charles Bell; first lieutenant, John H. Braden; second lieutenant, John H. Kirby.

*Company E*—Captain, Thomas H. Butler; first lieutenant, William P. Marsh; second lieutenant, William A. Mandlove.

## EIGHTY-THIRD REGIMENT.

Adjutant, George R. Robinson; first lieutenants, William R. Lanius and Darius H. Dodd; second lieutenant, Benjamin Bridges.

## NINETEENTH REGIMENT (FIFTH CAVALRY.)

Colonel, Thomas H. Butler; lieutenant-colonel, Thomas H. Butler; quartermaster, William H. Duncan.

*Company H*—Captains, Thomas H. Butler and William H. St. John; first lieutenants, William H. St. John and John P. Whitlow; second lieutenants, James Kennedy and John P. Whitlow.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD REGIMENT.

Colonel, John C. McQuiston; lieutenant-colonel, DeWitt C. Walters; majors, D. C. Waters and Irvin Robbins.

*Company A*—Captains, Irvin Robbins and Hugh Weston; first lieutenants, Hugh Weston, John H. Kirby, Nathan Thorp and William H. Stout; second lieutenants, Green B. Roszell, Nathan Thorp, William H. Stout and John Castor.

*Company B*—Captains, D. C. Walters, William H. Dolby and John A. Merrill; first lieutenants, William H. Dolby, John A. Merrill and Ephriam T. Allen; second lieutenants, John A. Merrill, E. T. Allen and John Davison.

*Company D*—Captain, Angus F. McCoy; first lieutenants, James Jeffries, Joseph Carter and Ira E. Stark; second lieutenants, John Case and Harvey Connett.

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIXTH REGIMENT.

Colonel, Merritt C. Welsh; major, Thomas P. Spillman.

*Company A*—Captains, Thomas P. Spillman, George W. Reed; first lieutenants, George W. Reed and Christian J. Henry; second lieutenants, C. J. Henry and John W. Moore.

*Company F*—First lieutenant and captain, B. W. Cole.

*Company G*—Second lieutenant, Enoch Allen.

*Company K*—Second lieutenant, John F. Hobart.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH REGIMENT (ONE HUNDRED DAYS.)

Colonel, James Gavin; adjutant, A. J. Hungate; quartermaster, Charles H. Wright; chaplain, D. R. Van Buskirk; assistant surgeon, John M. Craig.

*Company B*—Captain, Joseph Drake; first lieutenant, Robert F. Conover; second lieutenant, Hurum M. G. Dugan.

*Company C*—Captain, William D. Jocelyn; first lieutenant, Thomas P. Spillman; second lieutenant, John B. Mallett.

*Company D*—Captain, Charles C. Bell; first lieutenant, Adam Sample; second lieutenant, Isaac Seeright.

*Company E*—Captain, William T. Marsh; first lieutenants, A. J. Hungate and William M. Friedly; second lieutenants, William M. Friedly and William M. Johnson.

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT.

Quartermaster, John C. Blake.

*Company C*—First lieutenant, William H. Reddington.

THIRD BATTERY.

First Lieutenant, Adolphus G. Armington.

WILDER BATTERY.

Captain, S. F. Rigby; first lieutenant, William H. Carroll, Jacob R. Stewart, William K. Wilson, C. W. McLaughlin, Charles H. Porter and Robert H. Randall; second lieutenant, Jacob R. Stewart, William K. Wilson, Matthew E. Jackson, Benjamin M. Ricketts, C. W. McLaughlin.

By referring to the summary of Decatur county's representation in the Civil War, above given, it will be seen that the county had men in twelve regiments of infantry and two batteries of artillery. Undoubtedly there were also men in other regiments, not only in this state, but in other states as well. The most important regiment from this county was probably the Seventh, which first went out for the three-month service, and then re-enlisted for a period of three years. The other important regiments from this county were the Thirty-seventh, Sixty-eighth, Seventy-sixth, One Hundred and Twenty-third, One Hundred and thirty-fourth and One Hundred and Forty-sixth. These six regiments will be treated in this order.

THE SEVENTH REGIMENT—(THREE MONTHS' SERVICE).

Decatur county began enrolling troops as soon as the governor issued his call, and on Monday, April 21, two companies were on their way to Indianapolis. The *Greensburg Standard*, in its issue of April 26, gives the full list of the men composing these two companies, later assigned to the Seventh Regiment as Companies B and F. Owing to the fact that but eighty-four would be received in a company, not all who went to Indianapolis were permitted to go to the front at that time. Company No. 1

(later Company B, Seventh Regiment) went to Indianapolis with the following officers: James Morgan, captain; I. G. Grover, first lieutenant; Benjamin M. Rickets, second lieutenant; H. H. Talbott, third lieutenant; D. W. Hamilton, orderly; R. M. Higgins, second sergeant; G. B. Rozell, third sergeant; Edward Carlisle, fourth sergeant; John Roling, ensign. The privates of this company were as follows: J. H. Alyea, Milton Bryan, John Bennett, R. F. Conover, J. B. Carter, M. C. Connett, Benedict Brown, William Burk, Josiah Crume, William Catterson, Richard Craycraft, William G. Dunn, Alex. Edwards, Josiah Hockersmith, John T. Hazen, William D. Jocelyn, Fred Ketchum, William B. Loyd, James Leggett, William J. McAttee, John C. McKim, William McDonald, William T. Nesbit, Will Pound, William D. Rossell, Thomas Rust, John W. Sullivan, H. M. G. Dugan, John Edwards, H. H. Harvey, Bennett Heck, J. B. Israel, Andy Ludwick, J. H. Loyd, James H. Lathrop, Joshua Magee, Will T. Marsh, Lewis McGoughy, John W. Pullen, John Pine, Ed T. Ricket, Calvin C. Sisco, John Slawson, William Saunders, John Topky, James B. White, Orville T. Welch, G. W. Walker, W. T. Stott, William Tarkington, William Wolverton, Joseph Welch, William L. Alyea, H. T. Bush, J. M. Bodine, Smith Craig, Will Cumback, Harrison Barkly, Benjamin Bridges, Henry Bennett, H. C. Conner, H. B. Carter, James Demoss, Joseph Devoy, James M. Fugit, Newt. Hazelrigg, Edgar Henry, Robert Imlay, Peter Lohner, Samuel Lee, Richard Lewis, Frank Mackey, Thomas McMahon, James Neilus, John S. Pritchard, Thomas Perry, James G. Ricketts, James Smith, William H. Snook, Hugh Draper, William T. Green, Lee Holman, William M. Jones, G. W. H. Kemper, H. W. Lanham, George Lee, Charles Lewis, William S. McKim, James S. McFeeters, Joel G. Nicum, Isaac T. Phares, C. M. Rosczell, James T. Ricketts, M. D. Smith, Wentworth Sackett, H. H. Talbott, Jr., John Tucker, C. J. Wilson, J. B. Wright, S. A. Wallace, John Toothman, Nathan Withers, Richard West, John W. Watkins, William A. Whitton, a total of one hundred and twelve.

Company No. 2 (later Company F, Seventh Regiment) had the following officers: J. V. Bemusdaffer, captain; James Gavin, first lieutenant; B. C. Shaw, second lieutenant; A. G. Armington, third lieutenant. The privates were as follows: J. G. Adkin, W. T. Baldwin, Samuel Barkley, Henry Baker, Daniel Coy, W. A. Donnell, Frank Devoy, David Frelander, J. Fosset, W. A. Glass, Bruson Brosier, J. F. Baett, Ed. A. Blair, G. D. Clayton, Harvey Connett, G. G. Dement, W. L. Edwards, Lafayette Ford, J. L. Griffiths, Hamilton Grinold, J. N. Hann, Z. Inkle, S. Kirby, Polk Long, John Maple, John H. Meek, Stephen Maston, J. J. Loan, T. B. Peery, Isaac Price, C.



Rowe, C. D. Reece, W. H. Stewart, E. Southwick, H. S. Stewart, Ed Speer, J. Y. Hitt, W. B. Harvey, Ross Jones, James King, Elisha Kirk, Samuel Lovall, John Morris, Jesse Miller, William McLaughlin, T. D. Purdy, Virgil Pultz, M. W. Richardson, W. B. Risk, William Roberts, W. T. Smith, D. N. Smith, A. Shires, H. Skillman, J. L. Tucker, T. E. Weston, J. C. Thomas, C. Warriner, Samuel Anderson, H. Baley, Samuel Bishop, James Cones, J. R. Canfield, W. A. Doyer, James Day, William A. Fortner, Samuel Garrison, Lewis Bennett, W. G. Hays, W. T. Bagley, Thomas E. Banes, John Coy, T. S. Davis, D. H. Dodd, J. W. Foster, James Gainor, W. H. Goddard, Joseph Hill, Frank Hughes, John Jones, Abram Knapp, Marion Linville, Joseph McCartney, Thomas Miles, Mathew McElvoy, John McConnell, Richard Phillips, Robert Patterson, W. Ryan, Irvin Robbins, C. C. Snodgrass, G. W. Sheffield, B. Shires, J. Shaw, William Hutcherson, Daniel Hendrickson, W. Jackson, James Kirkpatrick, Carter Loyd, Burnard Mullen, George D. Miller, James Elroy, Thomas Mozingo, William Potter, James Phillips, George R. Rhiver, Jeremiah Robertson, Robert Smith, J. B. Sharp, D. M. Smith, John Springer, Orville Thomson, H. Weston, D. C. Walters, G. W. Walker, T. F. Walters, a total of one hundred and twenty.

As only eighty-four men, rank and file, were necessary to form a company, only one hundred and sixty-eight could be mustered in. This left a surplus of sixty-four men, who had to return home. There were some, however, whose names were not in the printed list who were mustered in. How many is not known. So there were probably, in round numbers, two hundred and fifty Decatur county men who volunteered at the first tap of the drum, or enough for three companies, which would have been two hundred and fifty-two men.

The two companies from here were organized as follows when sworn into the service at the old fair grounds at Indianapolis on April 25:

*Company B*—Captain, James Morgan; first lieutenant, Ira G. Grover; Second lieutenant, Benjamin M. Ricketts.

*Company F*—Captain, J. V. Bemusdaffer; first lieutenant, B. C. Shaw; second lieutenant, J. L. Tucker.

These men remained in camp at Indianapolis from April 22 until April 29, when they marched down Illinois and Washington streets to the union depot and took the cars for West Virginia. There they remained for three months and participated in the three first battles of the war: Phillipi, on June 3; Laurel Hill, on July 8, and Carrick's Ford, July 13.

It is a matter of history that Company B led the advance at Phillipi and fired the first volley in the first battle of the great Civil War. The only

casualty was the wounding of Colonel Kelly, of the First Virginia Regiment. Two of the enemy were hurt, one man by the name of James E. Hanger, had his left leg shot off by a cannon ball, and Dr. G. W. New, a former Greensburg doctor and surgeon of the Seventh Regiment, amputated the leg and the man recovered.

James Gavin, who enlisted in Company B, became adjutant of the regiment when it was organized, and when it was reorganized three months later for the three-year service he became lieutenant-colonel, and on November 3 was promoted to the colonelcy, which he held until April 22, 1863.

In the battle of Laurel Hill, on July 8, John Smith, of Company C, which was raised in Shelby county, was killed. He was the first Union soldier killed in the war. Upon their return nearly all of the Decatur men re-entered the service, either in the three-year Seventh or some other regiment, and many of them became officers.

The ladies of Greensburg sent the boys bountiful provisions for a fine dinner at their camp in Indianapolis on April 25. Captain Morgan presided at a meeting following the dinner and Will Cumbback acted as secretary.

The *Standard*, in its issue of April 26, in speaking of the soldiers going to Indianapolis, goes on to say that, "The volunteers are mostly from this city and township and are the best men of the community. Their departure on Monday was witnessed by the largest crowd ever convened in Greensburg. Almost every man, woman and child was affected to tears. Strong men and affectionate women, loving husbands and fond wives wept bitterly, but firmly submitted to the bitter necessity of parting and to the call of their country. It is indeed a sad sight to witness the departure of a father, husband or son for the battlefield, when perhaps naught but suffering and death await them, and it is truly a sad reflection when looking upon their manly forms to know that some of them will never return alive. May the Lord bless and protect them is the prayer of everyone.

"The volunteers reached Indianapolis at twelve o'clock, Monday, marched to the state house and from there to Camp Morton. They are comfortably quartered, have plenty to eat and of the very best articles, and when we saw them last they were exercising their jaws in 'double-quick time,' laughing, joking and yelping for the Union. May they ever feel and fare as well and return safely home to their friends."

#### ARTILLERY AND RIFLE COMPANIES.

In addition to the two companies above mentioned, Greensburg raised a company of artillerists and one of riflemen. Captain Wilder was head of

the artillery company. The *Standard*, of April 26, says that "The board of commissioners has appropriated six hundred dollars to purchase a cannon for Wilder's artillery company. Good!" The artillery company was at once accepted by Governor Morton and was told to hold itself ready, "awaiting the orders of the government." The rifle company met on Tuesday night, April 23, and elected the following officers: Captain, Giles White; first lieutenant, W. H. Reed; second lieutenant, David Eudailey. This was what was known as a "home guard" company.

#### GREENSBURG BAND GOES TO FRONT.

The Greensburg regimental band, one of the best bands in the state, offered its services, which were promptly accepted. The names of the members of this band who volunteered in the service of their country were as follows: W. H. Lybrand, Joseph Tarkington, F. M. Tackett, William Christ, W. M. Fletcher, A. C. Withrow, William Withrow, John Hoffman, A. A. Armington, A. B. Armington, Emanuel Zorger and Samuel Bigger. The band went to Indianapolis Saturday, April 20, and the two companies of volunteers followed on Monday, April 22. This band enlisted with the Seventh Regiment for the three-year service, but was at the front only about one year of their second enlistment. It was found that the band was not as essential to the success of arms as it had been supposed. The fife and drum took the place of the band in nearly all regiments before the end of the war. Most of the members of the Greensburg band returned home in 1862.

#### THE SEVENTH REGIMENT (THREE-YEAR SERVICE).

A complete history of the Seventh Indiana Regiment was written and published by one of its members from Decatur county, Orville Thomson. It is interesting to note that this veteran of the Civil War, as well as veteran of the newspaper fraternity of Decatur county, set all of the type by hand for this volume of two hundred and forty-two pages.

As has been stated, Decatur county had two companies in the three-months service. The regiment left Virginia on July 23, 1861, and reached Indianapolis three days later. They were discharged on August 2 and at once returned to their homes in Decatur county, but practically all of them had agreed among themselves to re-enlist for the three-year service.

To quote from Comrade Thomson's history, "The conception of the three-year Seventh occurred while the train bearing the three-months men

homeward lay switched off at a station on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, at Cameron, some twenty miles southeast of Wheeling. It was there that we first learned of the Bull Run disaster of a day or so previous, and that President Lincoln had issued a proclamation calling for three hundred thousand volunteers to serve for three years. This intelligence had a most depressing effect upon the men, but this feeling was but for a moment. When the train was again under way a bevy of officers was gathered in the headquarters car engaged in considering the situation. When each had had his say, the colonel wound up the conference with this suggestion: 'Comrades, let us reorganize the regiment, retaining its present number, Seventh, under this three-year call and fight it out to the grand finale.' "

Thus came into existence the re-organized Seventh for the three-year service. This regiment had a glorious history and, without disparaging any other regiment, it may be said that it stands pre-eminently in the first rank. Some regiments saw more service and met with heavier losses, but that was later in the war and did not attract the attention that the deeds of the Seventh did.

Thirteen days after the men from this regiment returned from Virginia, in August, 1861, word came from Indianapolis to Decatur county that the Seventh Regiment was being reorganized. On Monday, September 2, the men began to arrive in camp at Indianapolis and eleven days later the regiment was mustered into the United States service by Major Wood of the regular army.

The field staff and non-commissioned staff officers of the Seventh Regiment were as follows:

Acting colonel, Ebenezer Dumont; promoted brigadier-general United States Volunteers, September 2, and assigned to that duty on November 3, 1861.

Lieutenant-colonel, James Gavin; promoted to colonel, November 3, 1861; resigned April 22, 1863; re-entered service as colonel of the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment.

Major, John F. Cheek; promoted to lieutenant-colonel, November 3, 1861; resigned March 15, 1863.

Adjutant, John M. Blair; promoted to captain and acting chief surgeon United States Volunteers, April 14, 1862.

Quartermaster, Richard P. Johnson; mustered out August 2, 1862.

Chief surgeon, George W. New; mustered out with the regiment.

Assistant surgeon, William Gillespie; transferred to Eighty-third Regiment, August 14, 1862.



Risden D. Moore; no date.

John L. Wooden; promoted surgeon of the Sixty-eighth Regiment.

James T. Duffield; mustered out with the regiment.

Daniel P. Linegar, mustered out with the regiment.

Chaplains, John Kiger, resigned March 15, 1863; William R. Jewell, mustered out with the regiment.

Sergeant-major, Cyrus B. Goodwin; discharged to accept commission in Sixty-eighth Regiment.

Quartermaster-sergeant, William A. Curran; discharged January 24, 1863, by special order.

Commissary-sergeant, Joseph M. Wallace; mustered out in April, 1862.

Hospital steward, Frank C. New; transferred to Twentieth Regiment.

#### REGIMENTAL BAND.

(Under a general order of the war department, of about the last of April, 1862, all the regimental bands were mustered out, the Seventh's being the thirtieth to be discharged). The principal musicians were as follows: George W. Rhiver, died at home, April 21, 1862; Joseph B. Pepper, Charles M. Green, Nelson C. Lawrence, Joseph A. Tarkington, Francis M. Tuckett, Aaron C. Withrowe, John Hoffman, Alfred Beard, Charles H. Doan, James T. Howard, Joseph B. Isreal, James King, Henry C. Reece, John A. Howard, Nathon W. Sargeant, Joseph D. Patton, William H. H. Withrowe, William H. Snook, John T. Wheatley, William H. R. Tarkington, Harrison F. Bush, William H. Criss (died at Cumberland, February 13, 1862), John H. Howard (died at Elkwater, December 6, 1861), and John C. Slawson.

L. D. Braden, in the *Standard* of September 17, 1909, printed a six-column history of this regiment and it is deemed well to quote from this excellent article for the remainder of the discussion of this regiment.

"The Seventh had not long to wait until it was into war in earnest. After three months' skirmishing around Elkwater, the regiment was shifted to the upper Potomac and, after some more skirmishing around Cheat Mountain, they finally got into a severe battle at Kernstown on March 22, 1862, where they lost nine men killed and thirteen wounded, of whom six died. This was the beginning of a series of battles in which the regiment fought like heroes and sustained heavy losses.

"On June 8, they were in the thickest of the fight at Port Republic, where they lost fifteen killed, thirty-four wounded and eight prisoners.

Speaking of this engagement, the "Indiana Roll of Honor" says: 'It was here that the Seventh Indiana won immortal glory.'

"Then followed Cedar Mountain, Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Cold Harbor, Wilderness, Petersburg and, ending with the battle at Weldon Railroad on August 23, 1864, the Seventh gave a good account of itself and reflected glory upon the great state of Indiana. About September 15, 1864, the regiment left Old Virginia for home and, on September 29, they were mustered out.

"General Hoffman, of Pennsylvania, who had command of the brigade of which the Seventh was part, gives the Seventh Indiana credit for saving the Union army from defeat at Gettysburg. On the night after the first day's battle, July 1, 1863, Colonel Grover observed there were no troops on our right on Culp's Hill. Taking a squad of men, he proceeded to investigate the gap and, while there, ran up against a rebel scouting party with the same intent. Colonel Grover ordered them to 'Halt! Surrender!' and the enemy, thinking it was the main body of the Unionists, surrendered. In the party brought in were a captain and a lieutenant of the Forty-second Virginia. Colonel Grover was breveted a brigadier for his clever play. He had found the gap and his prompt action kept the rebels from pre-empting it and flanking the Union right wing, which would have meant defeat of the entire army.

"In all, the regiment participated in twenty-seven battles and lost two hundred and thirty-five men. About one hundred and fifty of the men whose term of office had not expired in September, 1864, were transferred to the Nineteenth and Twentieth United States regiments and were present at Appomattox when Lee surrendered. So the men of the Seventh were in the fray from first to last."

#### DECATUR COUNTY LOSSES.

Following are losses sustained by the companies from this county: Killed in action during the war, 24; died of wounds, 5; died in prison, 17; died of disease, 33; total deaths, 79. Wounded in battle: Company D, 14; Company E, 9; Company G, 11; total, 34. Total deaths and wounded, 113.

#### KILLED IN ACTION.

*Company D*—Lieutenant Robert Braden, Henderson, Kentucky, July 26, 1862; Henry Bartee, Winchester, May 12, 1863; Asa Chapman, Spottsyl-

vania, June 9, 1864; James C. Kelly, Port Republic, June 9, 1862; Joab Shirk, Port Republic, June 9, 1862; Will S. Owens, Petersburg, June 18, 1864; Oliver A. Owens, Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864; Samuel Thornburg, Wilderness, May 12, 1864.

*Company E*—Capt. George P. Clayton, Wilderness, May 7, 1864; Albert W. Vorris, Wilderness, May 5, 1864; George W. Michael, Port Republic, June 9, 1862; John M. Young, Port Republic, June 9, 1862; John Theodore, Uniontown, November, 1861; James W. Young, Laurel Hill, May 8, 1864.

*Company G*—Sergeant David B. Gageby, North Anna River, May 27, 1864; Joseph Beetem, Petersburg, June 18, 1864; Benjamin Higdon, Yellow House, May 3, 1864; James Higdon, Chancellorsville, May 3, 1863; Charles Jones, Wilderness, May 5, 1864; Thomas McLaughlin, Wilderness, May 5, 1864; Daniel J. McCoy, Wilderness, May 5, 1864; John Patterson, Manassas Plains, August 29, 1862; William T. Ryland, Gettysburg, July 3, 1863; McCowan H. Smith, Wilderness, May 5, 1864.

#### DIED OF WOUNDS.

*Company G*—John McCain, Port Republic, June 9, 1864; John A. Small, Spottsylvania, May 14, 1864.

*Company E*—George W. Meek, Petersburg, August 1, 1864.

*Company G*—John N. Hann, wounded at South Mountain, September, 1862; Sydney R. Griswold, Winchester, May 5, 1863.

#### DIED IN PRISON.

*Company D*—Will Clendenning, Florence; Isaac Higgs, Wilmington; George W. Johnson, Wilmington; George W. Shirk, Florence.

*Company E*—Daniel W. Anderson, Andersonville; Uriah Bartclay, Andersonville; John W. Foster, Andersonville; Peter L. Hamilton, Andersonville; John H. Horn, Andersonville; Amzi Demaree, Andersonville; Samuel Level, Andersonville; John Tremain, Salisbury.

*Company G*—Orion W. Donnell, Salisbury; Bazil G. Boyce, Salisbury; Newton J. Land, Salisbury; William Paul, Andersonville.

Besides furnishing three companies for this regiment, Decatur county also furnished the regimental band of twenty men, which was with the regiment until April 30, 1862. Three of these died while in service: G. W. Hiver, John W. Howard and William H. Criss.

OFFICERS IN COMMAND.

The Seventh was in the command of the following colonels: April 22 to July 22, 1861, Dumont; September 13 to November 3, 1861, Dumont; November 3, 1861, to April 22, 1863, Gavin; April 22, 1863, to September 20, 1864, Grover. The lieutenants were Gavin, Cheek and Banta. The majors were Cheek, Banta and Welsh.

On May 4, 1864, Colonel Grover and forty-four of his men were captured in the Wilderness, and he was away from the regiment for four months. During this time Lieutenant-Colonel Banta was ill and the command of the regiment fell upon Major M. C. Welsh, who kept up the reputation of the leaders of the regiment and was a favorite with the boys.

The next day after the capture of Colonel Grover—May 5—the Seventh got into a hard fight with the Fiftieth Virginia, and captured practically all the regiment, including the colonel and the flag. It is claimed the capture of the flag was made by Perry S. Tremain, Robert L. Alyea and T. M. Mozingo, of Company E, although the records credit it to J. N. Opel, of Company G. All were Decatur county men.

THIRTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT.

The Thirty-seventh Regiment of Indiana Volunteers went into camp at Lawrenceburg in August, 1861, and, after drilling about a month, was mustered into the service on September 18. Decatur county had two complete companies, E and H, in this regiment, and also a number of men in Company K.

The commissioned officers of Company E were as follow: Captains, Mahlon C. Connett, Frank Hughes and William B. Harvey; first lieutenants, Frank Hughes, William B. Harvey and George W. Hungate; second lieutenants, Andrew J. Hungate, William B. Harvey and George W. Hungate. The non-commissioned officers of this company were: First sergeant, William B. Harvey; sergeants, Lafayette Ford, Thomas B. Peery, Willa Raynes and George W. Hungate; corporals, William A. Whitlow, Philip S. Guthrie, Daniel J. Ballard, Abraham B. Cook, Charles W. Sherman, Martin F. Sidener, James K. Gully and Wesley N. Barnes; musicians, Nicholas A. Butler and William Stopper; wagoner, Benjamin F. Price.

The privates were James G. Adkins, Wesley H. Adkins, Columbus Ballard, Joshua Barton, Frederick Beck, Hiram Bowling, Martin Brooks,



Lewis C. Brooks, George W. Buffington, Matthew Buell, Thomas H. Carter, William E. Clark, Albert B. Connet, Andrew J. Cook, Edward Coleman, Reuben H. Conner, James R. Conner, James Cox, William J. Crisler, Howard Creed, Samuel Davidson, William Deen, Andrew Ensinger, George H. Eubanks, Robert Favour, George W. Fleming, Joseph Ford, Benjamin Ford, Oscar M. Garrett, John T. Glass, George W. Gullion, James A. Hanger, Robert F. Heaton, Henry Hogan, Charles Hogan, Gideon Hornice, Addison Hughes, Charles T. Hunt, James T. Johnson, James Jordon, Abram Knapp, Thaddeus Knight, Stephen Lewis, James C. Lewis, Milton Martin, Willard R. Marsh, Jacob Maharry, Joseph A. Marks, William McKeeon, James C. McKee, Bert McNeely, John T. Morgan, Jacob W. Neeb, John Parson, Dudley Price, William Richy, Enoch Rickets, Arthur O. Scull, Alfred C. Scull, Philip Slifer, John Slifer, Reuben Smawley, Lewis Smawley, John H. Smith, Benjamin R. Smith, John B. Stogsdell, Bethuel G. Stark, Solomon Swango, Thomas S. Tevis, James Tillison, William H. Thompson, James Tracewell, Lafayette Walker, Samuel Wells, Buckner C. Whitlow, Milton M. Wilson, James Kimber, Wesley Wilder, James H. Wooley, Albert Wooters, John F. Wolverton and Thomas J. Wood. Recruits, Thomas J. Stevens, Samuel Scott and Charles W. Woodard.

The commissioned officers of Company H. are here given: Captains, William H. Tyner, Quartus C. Moore, George W. Pye, James H. Burke and John L. Hice; first lieutenants, Quartus C. Moore, George C. Pye, James H. Burke, John L. Hice and Augustus H. Tevis; second lieutenants, George W. Pye, James H. Burke, John L. Hice and Augustus H. Tevis. The non-commissioned officers were: First sergeant, James H. Burke; sergeants, John S. Douglas, Levi Smith, Benjamin D. Fowler and John L. Hice; corporals, Augustus H. Tevis, Joel M. Proctor, John N. Jones, John J. Paul, John M. Roop, David B. Sutton and Joseph W. Garrison; musicians, Isaac J. Tyner and James J. Cunningham; wagoner, Milton G. Moor.

The privates were Noah L. Brunton, William H. Burk, Newton Burk, William Baldwin, James Buck, Squire H. Cowen, Harrison Cowen, John Cowen, Benjamin F. Clark, Edward Davis, Samuel Dickson, James C. Day, David Douglas, Benjamin L. Demoss, Henry Day, Barton N. Dailey, George C. W. Diggs, Stephen Enos, Robert Ewbanks, William S. Ford, Thomas S. Ford, James P. Ferguson, Hiram Fredinburg, Alfred Fry, Samuel Harper, Lewis M. Hunter, John Hoter, Jacob A. Hutchinson, John Hunter, Daniel Harry, William Homsher, William Harrell, John S. Har-

rell, John A. Johnston, William Laforge, Martin Moor, Francis F. McCracken, Samuel Miller, Richard Martin, William R. Murray, James Miller, Samuel M. McClure, James T. Mitchell, Anderson Owen, Warren Patrick, Elisha G. Patrick, James Patrick, James Pettit, James W. Peak, Absalom Robbins, Harrison Robbins, Anderson Rutherford, David Stonecypher, Nathaniel Shattuck, Theodore L. Stout, James R. Scott, William G. Shafer, Thomas W. Shera, Benjamin Starrett, Thomas A. Shirk, Zemry Shaw, Henry J. Steward, Martin J. Snook, William A. Thompson, Andrew Waggoner, Samuel Williams, Alfred Watson, John D. Woodall, John C. Wimmer, Robert Whittaker, Isaac Yauger. Recruits, Benjamin T. Denham, James B. Denham and James Ward.

On the evening of Saturday, October 19, 1861, the regiment marched through Lawrenceburg and took boats down the river to Louisville, where they arrived the next morning. After spending a few weeks there in a drill, it moved on to Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and from thence to Bacon Creek, Kentucky, where they spent the months of December and January. Early in February it moved against Bowling Green, Kentucky, and on the Confederates' retreat from that town, proceeded to Nashville, Tennessee, and went into camp. From there they proceeded by easy marches to Huntsville, Alabama. From there they went to the rescue of the Eighteenth Ohio at Athens, Alabama, and then returned again to Fayetteville and from there proceeded to Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Thirty-seventh first saw heavy fighting in the battle of Stone's River on December 31, 1862, where its losses were severe. It was then detailed to guard Murfreesboro and from there started on the Tullahoma campaign. About the last of August, 1863, a forward movement was ordered and the Thirty-Seventh took part in the Chickamauga campaign, with its great battle at Chickamauga. No campaign or battle of the Civil War did greater honor to the fighting quality of the Northern soldier, or accomplished more for the crushing of the rebellion than the battle of Chickamauga. When they arrived at Chickamauga on the morning of the 22nd of September, they went into camp and prepared for the siege of that place. During this siege they nearly starved, living on corn, cowtails and acorns. But Chattanooga fell and early in May, 1864, the Atlanta campaign was ushered in. In this the Thirty-seventh did its part in helping to push the Confederate forces back to Buzzard Roost, to Rocky Face and on to Resaca. From there it moved forward to Calhoun, was present at the battle of Pumpkinvine Creek and helped Sherman take Atlanta.

As the regiment had been mustered into the service on the 18th day of September, 1861, it was ordered on that day in 1864 to report at Indianapolis

as early as possible. On the 19th it reported from Atlanta on a train composed mostly of stock and platform cars. They arrived in Indianapolis on the 22nd, and on October 27th were paid off and mustered out of service.

## SIXTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT.

The Sixty-eighth Regiment was recruited in the fourth congressional district under Benjamin C. Shaw. It was organized at Greensburg by Shaw, who later became lieutenant-colonel of the regiment. It was mustered into the service on August 19, 1862, at Indianapolis, with E. A. King as colonel. It was taken to Louisville and shortly afterwards was captured at the battle of Mumfordsville, Kentucky. It was paroled and sent to Indianapolis to await exchange. On December 26, 1862, part of the regiment went to Louisville, where it was joined on the last day of the year by the remainder of the regiment. It was then taken to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and until after the fall of Knoxville it was fighting in that state. It was in the three big battles of Hoover's Gap, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. At the battle of Chickamauga the regiment lost one hundred and thirty-five, killed, wounded and missing, out of a total of three hundred and fifty-six men and officers. This frightful casualty list was due to the fact that it was one of the last to leave the field. On August 14, 1864, the regiment went to Dalton, Georgia, and for the next three months was fighting in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee, returning to the latter state in time to take part in the battle of Nashville, on December 15, 1864. It stayed at Nashville until the second week in January and was then taken to Chattanooga, where it did guard duty from January to June. It was mustered out of the service at Nashville, June 20, 1865.

## SEVENTY-SIXTH REGIMENT.

Decatur county had more men in the Seventy-sixth Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry than in any other regiment, having furnished five full companies, as well as several commissioned officers in addition. This regiment was probably organized on shorter notice than any other, with the exception of those which went to the front in the spring of 1861. The Rebels were threatening to cross the Ohio river into Kentucky during the summer of 1862 and when a band of thirty actually crossed the river into Warrick county, the whole state of Indiana was aroused as it has never been before or since. They plundered Newburg, in Warrick county, and the frightened inhabitants of the southern part of the state were in a state

of terror, not knowing, of course, but that a larger force was making ready to make a descent on the state.

It was this incident which led to the organization of the Seventy-sixth Regiment. Colonel Gavin, of Greensburg, who was home on a furlough at the time, telegraphed Governor Morton on Friday, July 18, 1862, tendering his services and three hundred men to drive these "bushwhackers" out of that region. A favorable reply was received at eleven-thirty that night and the city was aroused and enlistments began at once. By nine a. m. the next day two hundred and fifty men were ready, but lack of transportation made it necessary to wait until afternoon, when five hundred left for the capital, having been raised in eighteen hours. This shows the temper of the times. Decatur county had already sent three companies in the Seventh, one in the Thirty-seventh, Rigby's battery, and others in other commands, amounting to probably five hundred men in the service when these "minute men" responded so nobly. When they reached Indianapolis, men from other parts of the state joined them and formed the Seventy-sixth Indiana Regiment. This was one of the most exciting times during the whole war. At three P. M., Sunday they left Indianapolis for Evansville, where they arrived on Monday. They crossed the river and marched eighteen miles to near Petersburg, Kentucky, in the hottest of weather. Many of the raw troops were overcome with heat. After scouring the country south of Henderson for three days, they were unable to find any considerable force—they having taken wings to other parts. On July 24 Lieut. Robert Braden was killed by bushwhackers while riding with Colonel Gavin, Doctor Worz and Delos Thompson. Colonel Gavin was shot through the left hand. On August 1 the regiment was ordered from Henderson to Morganfield, where a force of eight hundred was reported, but when they got there the enemy had flown.

The officers of the Seventy-sixth Regiment were as follows: Colonel, James Gavin; lieutenant-colonel, John T. Wilder; major, D. W. Elliott; adjutant, Irvin Robbins; surgeon, J. T. Duffield; quartermaster, S. A. Bonner.

The five companies from Decatur county were officered as follows:

*Company B*—Captain, Robert Higgins; first lieutenant, W. L. Alyea; second lieutenant, W. M. Fletcher; orderly, J. B. Wright.

*Company C*—Captain, Luther Donnell; first lieutenant, Hugh Weston; second lieutenant, B. H. Harney; orderly, I. N. Shirk.

*Company D*—Captain, Charles T. Bell; first lieutenant, John H. Braden; second lieutenant, John H. Kirby; orderly, William Caldwell.



*Company E*—Captain, T. H. Butler; first lieutenant, William Marsh; second lieutenant, William Mandlove; orderly, Robert Imlay.

*Company F*—Captain, Benjamin Jenkins; first lieutenant, Peter Walker; second lieutenant, William Smith; orderly, J. McLean.

But little has been written about the Seventy-sixth Regiment. Some of the men who saw longer and more difficult service have spoken lightly of the "gallant Seventy-sixth," and yet it did a good job in clearing the Kentucky woods of the pestiferous guerrillas, murderers and outlaws who preyed upon the people. They captured a number of them and scared the others away. Many of the officers and men in the Seventy-sixth had seen service in other commands, and if it had been necessary the regiment could have put up a hard fight, even if they were hastily gathered together and the majority of them without training. History offers a word of praise for them.

The body of Lieutenant Braden was brought back to his home near Milford by John H. Braden and Joseph D. Pleak, and on Sunday, July 29, the funeral was held in the presence of one of the largest audiences ever seen in that locality. The burial was in charge of the Masons.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD REGIMENT.

The One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment was recruited from the fourth and seventh congressional districts and rendezvoused at Greensburg during the winter of 1863-64. It was mustered into the service on March 9, 1864, with John C. McQuiston as colonel. On March 18 the regiment left for Nashville, Tennessee, and shortly afterward was ordered to join Sherman in his attack on Atlanta. After remaining with Sherman for most of the summer in Georgia, the regiment returned to Tennessee in pursuit of Hood and participated in the battle of Nashville, December 15-16, 1864. Within a few weeks it was taken to Washington, D. C., en route to Fort Anderson, North Carolina, where it remained through February and March, 1865. It was then taken to Newbern and later through the central part of the state until it joined Sherman at Goldsboro. It was eventually mustered out, August 25, 1865, at Raleigh, North Carolina, and left for Indianapolis on the same day, arriving there September 4.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH REGIMENT.

The One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment was mustered in at Indianapolis, May 25, 1864, with James Gavin as colonel. It spent its short time at the front doing garrison and guard duty in Tennessee.

## ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIXTH REGIMENT.

The One Hundred and Forty-sixth Regiment was recruited in the first, third and fourth congressional districts and mustered into the service at Indianapolis on March 9, 1865, with Merit C. Welsh as colonel. It was sent to Harper's Ferry, Virginia, and during its hundred days at the front was engaged in guard and post duty at Charlestown, Winchester, Stevenson Station, Gordan Sprngs and Summit Point, Virginia. It was mustered out at Baltimore, August 31, 1865, and arrived at Indianapolis on September 8. It engaged in no fighting of consequence and returned with the thirty-two officers and seven hundred and seventy-one men with which it went into the field.

## DECATUR COUNTY AND MORGAN'S RAID.

The long-expected invasion of Indiana by the Rebels occurred in July, 1863, and for a few days the wildest and most exciting times of the whole war took place as far as Indiana was concerned. The men in the state were in the harvest fields, but, as one man, they rose to defend their state. Saturday, Sunday and Monday, July 11, 12 and 13, 1863, are three memorable days in the history of Indiana, for it was then that Morgan with his band of freebooters was riding through southeastern part of the state. It is supposed that he intended to get as far north as Indianapolis, liberate the Rebel prisoners there, devastate the city, and gather as much booty as his men could carry away with them. He had counted on help from the members of the Knights of the Golden Circle, but, as far as is known, he received absolutely no aid whatever from them. A few of Morgan's men were in the southern part of Decatur county, but no specific acts of depredation can be charged to them. They had too little time to do any mischief. The *Greensburg Standard*, in its issue of July 19, 1863, has a graphic account of the raid as it affected Decatur county, and the same is here given in full:

"Sunday and Monday (July 12 and 13) last, our city appeared more like a military camp than anything else. Companies had gone from here upon the reception of the first news of the invasion below, but not until Saturday night did we suppose Morgan intended making so extensive a trip as he had projected.

"At that time we learned of his moving farther north and east, threatening the counties south of here. The people were aroused, and preparations for defense commenced. Sunday seemed like no Sunday at all, but certainly

like no other day we had ever seen. Arms of all sorts were gathered up and companies organized.

"Men came in from the county, singly and in squads, mostly mounted, but coming anyway to get here. About half past two Colonel Gavin's regiment of militia, including the companies from this county, arrived from Indianapolis and were met at the depot by vast crowds of people and large quantities of provisions.

"They remained until nearly four o'clock, when they left for Lawrenceburg, or wherever their services were needed. About two hours afterward, Colonel Shryock's regiment from Wayne and adjacent counties arrived. In this regiment Judge Gooding and a brother-in-law of General Burnside were "high privates." They expected for a time to remain here over night, but about nine o'clock got news that hurried them on, it being reported that the advance regiment had been skirmishing with the enemy about Sunman, twenty-three miles distant on the railroad. A battery also passed through in the night.

"In the meantime, people came into town from all directions, with all sorts of weapons. Scouts were sent out in every direction and pickets were stationed on all roads. News came in and rumors of all sorts were circulated. During all this time almost everybody appeared cool, though there were some exceptions.

"Monday's operations were a repetition of those of the previous day, only on a larger scale. Men continued to come in and new companies were organized, though quite a number of men appeared to rely upon bushwhacking on their own account.

"Business was totally suspended and the stores remained closed. Toward evening reliable news came that the rebels had crossed the railroad about twenty-five miles below and were pushing into Ohio. Many at once started for home, but a large number remained until night and some till morning. At this time the treasurer's office was stored full of provisions of all sorts, enough to feed ten regiments at least. Another alarm was given Monday night, but it was soon discredited, and by Tuesday business commenced again."

The first company left Greensburg on Friday morning, having been recruited in about ten hours' time. The officers were: Irvin Robbins, captain; James S. McPheeters, first lieutenant; G. M. Hamilton, second lieutenant; James Alexander, orderly sergeant, and O. B. Scobey, company clerk.

The regiment organized here was known as the One Hundred and

Fourth Indiana. There were six such regiments in the state, beginning with the One Hundred and Second. They were known as "minute men" and were to serve ten days. The One Hundred and Fourth was organized July 10, and after being taken to Sunman the following day, and from there, to Lawrenceburg, it marched toward Harrison, but gave up the chase and returned home July 18th and was mustered out.

Six of the companies were from Decatur county. The officers were as follows: Colonel, James Gavin; lieutenant-colonel, James S. Buchanan; major, M. W. Richardson; adjutant, A. G. Armington; quartermaster, W. S. Woodfill; surgeon, Dr. L. C. Thomas; assistants, Dr. James McLain and Dr. John Wheeldon; sergeant-major, James S. Halsey; quartermaster-sergeant, John M. Tucker; commissary sergeant, Rufus Hinkley.

*Company A*—Rush county, captain, Franklin F. Swain, Milroy.

*Company B*—Captain, Charles T. Bell, St. Omer; first lieutenant, Isaac Seright; second lieutenant, James A. Rankin.

*Company C*—Captain, Luther Donnell, Kingston; first lieutenant, G. B. Roszell; second lieutenant, A. F. McCoy.

*Company D*—Captain, Hugh Weston, Newpoint; first lieutenant, Adam Sample; second lieutenant, O. T. Briggs.

*Company E*—Captain, W. T. Marsh, Milford; first lieutenant, A. J. Hungate; second lieutenant, R. C. Benson.

*Company F*—Captain, W. A. Donnell, Clarksburg; first lieutenant, James F. Smith; second lieutenant, Edward Speer.

*Company G*—Madison county.

*Company H*—Captain, Irvin Robbins; first lieutenant, James S. McPheeters; second lieutenant, G. M. Hamilton.

*Company I*—Marion county.

*Company K*—Fayette county, captain, J. P. Orr, Bentonville.

#### A WAR-TIME CONVENTION.

Probably the biggest political gathering held at Greensburg during the war was a union county convention held February 21, 1863. Samuel Bryan presided and J. J. Hazelrigg acted as secretary. Speakers were United States Senator Joseph H. Wright, Senator Brown, of Delaware county, and Dr. Ryland T. Brown, of Indianapolis. Resolutions adopted called for vigorous prosecution of the war and denounced all schemes for a compromise as treasonable.

Senator Wright declared that Jeff Davis could not justify his cause as a



revolt against tyranny, as not one single right belonging to any state had been taken away from it. For this reason, he said there were no grounds for secession and rebellion and no wrongs to redress.

"This war was brought on by designing men thirsting for power," he said. "If the right of secession is established, our government is gone and we will have nothing left but anarchy and ruin."

At the conclusion of the meeting the following county central committee was appointed: Washington township, B. H. Harney, J. V. Woodfill and Charles Hazelrigg; Fugit township, L. A. Donnell; Clinton township, Charles Kemble; Adams township, Charles Woodward; Clay township, W. S. Tillson; Jackson township, Columbus Trimble; Sand Creek township, William McCullough; Marion township, G. W. Patrick, and Salt Creek township, James Morgan.

#### A CIVIL-WAR RIOT IN GREENSBURG.

In the latter part of 1862 and the early part of 1863 there began to be organized in Decatur county, as well as in other counties in the state, groups of men who were opposed to the further prosecution of the war. So pronounced and rebellious were their views of the way the war was being conducted that they often came into conflict with the military authorities. The first general organization of these men was known as the Knights of the Golden Circle; later they were known as the American Knights; still later they denominated themselves the Sons of Liberty. While many good men were led to join them, it is doubtful whether more than a mere handful, comparatively speaking, ever knew the extent of their secret designs. The leaders of the Knights of the Golden Circle in 1863 claimed to have forty thousand members in Indiana, and before the end of the war this number must have reached nearly seventy-five thousand. Locally, they were known as "Butternuts" and "Copperheads" and the loyal Union men hated them worse than they did the Rebels. In the spring of 1863 the members began wearing butternut emblems openly and defying public sentiment in such a way as to invite trouble. If they were looking for trouble they had no difficulty in finding it and numerous personal encounters were staged between the wearers of the hated emblem and the loyal Union men.

Greensburg witnessed a riot on Saturday, April 25, 1863, on which day there was a great political rally in the county seat. Hundreds of people were in town on that eventful day and very many of them had

on butternut emblems. It could hardly have been expected that the day would pass without some violence and it seems that the "Butternuts" were courting trouble. And they found it. Before the day was over numerous shots were fired, fist fights were engaged in on every corner and more excitement prevailed around the public square than Greensburg has ever seen before or since. The *Greensburg Standard* tells the story in its issue of the week following and as it was an eyewitness of the fracas, its account is given verbatim, as illustrative at least of the style of discussion then indulged in by the newspapers, as follows:

"The day had been extensively advertised among those who opposed the war, and great speakers were here to criticise the government and influence the already excited minds of the 'Butternuts' and 'Copperheads,' as they were called. United States Senator Thomas Hendricks, Judge Joseph E. McDonald, Attorney-General Oscar B. Hord and Judge R. D. Logan, men of commanding ability, were here and spoke in the court house to an immense audience of men, many of whom came from distant parts of the county and adjoining counties armed and looking for trouble. They had boasted that they would 'take the town.' One delegation of eighty horsemen from Sandcreek, Jackson and Clay townships met at the Goddard school house and drilled for an hour before marching into town. Many of them were armed and wore butternut emblems. They rode into town and around the square just before noon. This was the only demonstration of the forenoon.

"The first outbreak was about noon, when a man by the name of Finley, wearing a butternut pin, challenged a Union man to take it off, feeling that he had such strong backing that no one would dare attempt it. When the dust had cleared away Finley and his brother were badly used up and Captain Robbins was knocked down, but not seriously injured. The air was full of rocks, and things looked bad for a while.

"The speaking was at one o'clock. Capt. J. V. Bemusdaffer, formerly a Union soldier, presided. Hendricks spoke for an hour. McDonald followed. Both these men counseled against violence and advised the men to obey the laws, but make their protests at the ballot box. It remained for Judge Logan to fan the flame, and he did it successfully. His speech was highly inflammatory. He exhorted his hearers to preserve their God-given rights and not be trampled on. The war has degenerated into an abolition raid. Hord followed Logan, attacking Governor Morton for squandering the people's money, etc. The meeting dispersed quietly about three-thirty, and about a half hour later the riot began on the south side of the square, near the southwest corner. One Jesse Myers, who was intoxicated, fired a

pistol at Sergeant John Pierce, of Wilder's battery, who was here on detached duty. Myers was arrested and taken to the office of Squire Bryan, on the south side, where the crowd congregated.

"About this time one Allen G. Robbins fired a revolver at some one in the crowd and ran. He was pursued by Sergeant Pierce, Deputy City Marshal Man Zorger and others, at whom he fired back three times. Robbins was shot in the thigh, and ran into Will Pound's law office, three doors east of the southwest corner of the square, where Zorger disarmed him. As Zorger turned around with Robbins's revolver, he found a revolver pointed in his face by S. H. Logan. Some one, said to be Joe Drake, knocked Logan's arm up and he was shot in the abdomen.

"This closed the performance, and those of the Copperheads who were able to get out of town were soon making rapid advances toward home."

It seems that Judge Logan should bear most of the blame for the trouble, since it was his inflammatory speech which stirred things up. Those who are still living tell how the cavalry brigade from "Jagneck" and "Sand Creek" made a most ludicrous get-away when the tide turned against them. Some jumped on their horses at the court house rack and forgot to untie them in their excitement. Others crawled on their horses backwards and groped blindly toward the tails of their faithful steeds in a vain effort to get hold of the reins of their bridles. Some never took the trouble to find their horses, but took to their heels in the direction of the tallest woods. Looking at the performance from a distance of fifty-two years, it looks like it must have indeed been an exciting day.

#### SOME CIVIL WAR STATISTICS.

Decatur county furnished twenty-six companies of infantry and one battery, making in all about twenty-five hundred men. Deducting those who enlisted twice or more, it would appear that the county sent at least two thousand men to the front during the dark days of the Rebellion.

Fifty-eight men from the county were killed on the battlefield, distributed among the different regiments as follows: Seventh, twenty-four; Thirty-seventh, eleven; Sixty-eighth, seven; Fifty-second, three; One Hundred and Twenty-third, nine. Six men of the Fifty-second were frozen to death on the cold New Year's day, 1864. Twenty-two died of wounds received in the service; twenty-two died in prison; one hundred and forty-one died of diseases; two were drowned—making a total casualty list of two hundred and fifty-one.

During the progress of the war the county commissioners were authorized to offer bounties for enlistments and by the end of the struggle the county had expended one hundred seventy-one thousand six hundred dollars for this purpose. Some of the townships also offered bounties for enlistments and they expended twenty-five thousand dollars along the same line.

RELIEF FOR SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.

Within the first week after the men went to Indianapolis a subscription list was started for the support of soldiers' families. Amounts ranging from five to one hundred dollars, with a total of three thousand six hundred and seventy-five dollars, was raised in three days. The following subscribed one hundred dollars each to this fund: M. D. Ross, B. H. Harney, J. F. Stevens, W. H. Reed, G. Woodfill & Sons, E. and L. P. Lathrop, T. M. Hamilton, Samuel Bryan, A. R. Forsyth, David Lovett, D. and J. Stewart, J. P. Hittle, R. A. Hamilton, L. A. Donnell, J. S. Scobey and John Anderson. Our citizens deserve no small amount of credit for the liberal manner in which they contributed to the volunteers that went from this place. Besides the amount subscribed for the support of their families while they were gone, each one was furnished with a new blanket and two check shirts and four hundred dollars placed in the hands of the captains of the companies to be used to promote the comfort of the companies. All must acknowledge that Decatur did her whole duty.

A relief committee, organized to look after the welfare of the soldiers' families, secured an order from the county commissioners that the county would pay a sum equal to that raised by private subscription. This made the sum double \$3,678, or \$7,356, all of which was available within the first week after the soldiers went to Indianapolis. B. H. Harney was secretary of the relief committee and A. R. Forsyth was treasurer.

Because some advantages had been taken of the county commissioners in the matter of relief for soldiers' families, it was decided to discontinue this method of supplying relief and put the work in the hands of township trustees. This was done nine months after the war started, up to which time the sum of \$7,777.89 had been paid out by the county commissioners.

The county commissioners passed an order, August 14, 1861, for the relief of soldiers' families. Barton H. Harney, who had been appointed chairman of the relief committee in April, was continued as such to look after Washington township. Commissioner John Moody was assigned Fugit



and Salt Creek townships, Daniel Boyer, Clinton, Adams and Clay and Wren Jackson, Sandcreek and Marion.

As the war progressed it was found that a large number of the families were in need of the necessities of life and provisions were made to take care of them by the county at large as well as by the individual townships. The county issued orders for relief to the amount of \$128,582 and the townships spent \$20,000 more for the same purposes. Greensburg alone paid bounties to the amount of \$6,000 and relief to the amount of \$8,686. Besides these specific amounts paid out by the county, townships and the city of Greensburg, the county and the city expended \$1,500 and \$40,000, respectively, for miscellaneous purposes. The grand total for the whole county, including the townships and city of Greensburg, amounted to \$401,863.

A statement by the adjutant-general of the state on October 6, 1862, for Decatur county, discloses the following: Total men of military age, 2,884; total volunteers, 1,353; total exempts, 432; total opposed to bearing arms, 1; total volunteers in service, 888; total subject to draft, 2,451. Under the call for troops made February 7, March 4 and July 18, 1864, Decatur county furnished 1,012 men and filled its quota with the exception of two—one from Marion and one from Jackson township. Under the last call of December 19, 1864, the county furnished 173 men, a surplus of 16 above its quota.

#### DECATUR COUNTY OFFICERS IN THE CIVIL WAR.

Decatur county furnished about twenty-five hundred men for service during the Civil War and, because of gallantry on the battlefield, a number of them rose from the ranks and became commissioned officers. The list follows:

#### COLONELS.

James Gavin, Seventh Regiment, November 3, 1861; Seventy-sixth Regiment, July 25, 1862; One Hundred Thirty-fourth Regiment, May 20, 1864.

John T. Wilder, Seventeenth Regiment, March 21, 1862; breveted brigadier-general, March, 1863; resigned, October 5, 1864.

T. H. Butler, Fifth Cavalry, September 2, 1862.

I. G. Grover, Seventh Regiment, April 23, 1863; breveted brigadier-general, July 5, 1863.

John S. Scobey, Sixty-eighth Regiment, September 21, 1863.

W. C. Lemert, Eighty-sixth Ohio, June, 1862.

John C. McQuiston, One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment, March 7, 1864; breveted brigadier-general, March 13, 1865.

Lemert was from Greensburg and first enlisted as first lieutenant in Company G, Seventh Indiana. He was promoted to the captaincy of his company on December 20, 1861, and resigned his commission on June 3, 1862, to become the colonel of the Eighty-sixth Ohio Regiment.

MISCELLANEOUS OFFICERS.

Irvin Robbins, major, Seventh Regiment; lieutenant-colonel, Sixty-eighth Regiment; adjutant, Seventy-sixth Regiment.

Thomas P. Spilman, major, One Hundred and Forty-sixth Regiment.

W. T. Strickland, major, Fifty-second Regiment.

W. B. Harvey, adjutant, Thirty-seventh Regiment.

Livingston Howard, adjutant, Thirty-seventh Regiment.

D. C. Walters, adjutant and lieutenant-colonel, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment.

A. J. Hungate, adjutant, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment.

Dr. J. Y. Hitt, surgeon, Seventeenth Regiment.

Dr. G. W. H. Kemper, surgeon, Seventeenth Regiment.

Rev. David Monfort, chaplain, Sixty-eighth Regiment.

Rev. D. R. Van Buskirk, chaplain, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment.

Will Cumback, offered the lieutenant-colonelcy of Thirteenth Regiment, but declined it and took the rank of colonel, as paymaster in the army.

DECATUR COUNTY'S ROLL OF HONOR.

No military history of Decatur county would be complete without a complete list of its brave sons that offered up their lives on the altar of freedom that this nation might live. The following statistics show by regiment those who were killed in action, died of wounds, in prison or of disease.

SEVENTH INFANTRY.

*Company D.*

Killed in action: Lieut. Robert Braden, by guerillas near Henderson, Kentucky, August, 1862, buried in Milford cemetery; Henry Bartee at Winchester, March 23, 1862, Winchester cemetery; Asa Chapman, at Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864, Fredericksburg cemetery; James C. Kelly, at Port

Republic, June 9, 1862, body not recovered; Will S. Owens, at Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864, Fredericksburg national cemetery; Samuel Thornburg, in Wilderness, May 5, 1864, body not recovered; Joab Shirk, at Port Republic, June 9, 1864, body not recovered.

Died of wounds: John McCian, June 12, 1862, wounded at Port Republic and buried there; John A. Small, at Spottsylvania, May 14, 1864, Fredericksburg national cemetery.

Died in prison: Will Clendenning, captured in Wilderness, died in Florence, Alabama, prison grave yard; Isaac Higgs, captured on secret expedition, died at Wilmington, North Carolina, May 8, 1864, prison graveyard; George W. Johnson, captured in Wilderness, died in southern prison; George W. Shirk, captured in Wilderness, died in Florence, Alabama, prison, Florence national cemetery.

Died of disease: Sergt. Francis M. Wadkins, at Elkwater, November 2, 1861, buried there; Evan Armstrong, at Waynesburg, August 14, 1864, Waynesburg cemetery; Matthias Davis, at Cumberland, Maryland, March 15, 1862, Cumberland cemetery; John S. Gibberson, at Elkwater, November 9, 1861, buried there; John S. Lowry, near Milford, December 14, 1861, Lowry cemetery; Isaac W. Pavy, at Culpeper, Virginia, February 29, 1864, Culpeper cemetery; Will Smith, at Washington city, November 17, 1863, Arlington cemetery; Samuel G. Wasson, at Elkwater, November 20, 1861, buried there; Prince Wimmer, at Strasburg, Virginia, April 12, 1862, buried there.

Wounded, not fatally: Sergt. Anderson Griffey, at Petersburg, mustered out with regiment; Pilgrim Cox, at Port Republic, discharged August 9, 1862; Andrew F. Flannigan, at Port Republic, discharged, disability; William W. Newton, at Petersburg, mustered out with the regiment; Thomas Mount, in Wilderness, mustered out with the regiment; Isaiah Shafer, at Port Republic, discharged September 16, 1862; Andrew F. Simpson, in Wilderness, mustered out with the regiment; Lewis Striker, at Port Republic, discharged, disability; Moses Sawyer, at Manassas Plains, discharged December 29, 1862; William Toothman, in Wilderness, mustered out with the regiment; Joseph H. Voiles, at Cedar Mountain, discharged, disability; Andrew J. Wheeler, in Wilderness, mustered out with the regiment; John W. Wolverton, at Port Republic, discharged February 26, 1863.

#### *Company E.*

Killed in action: Capt. George P. Clayton, in Wilderness, May 7, 1864, body not recovered; George W. Michael, at Port Republic, June 9, 1862,

body not recovered; John Theodore, at Uniontown, November, 1861; Albert M. Vorris, in Wilderness, May 5, 1864, body not recovered; James W. Young, at Laurel Hill, May 8, 1864, Fredericksburg national cemetery.

Died of wounds: George W. Meek, August 1, 1864, at Petersburg, on battlefield.

Died in prison: Daniel W. Anderson, captured in Wilderness, died in Andersonville prison, date not known, Andersonville national cemetery; Uriah H. Barclay, captured in Wilderness, died in Andersonville prison, date not known, Andersonville national cemetery; John W. Foster, captured in Wilderness, died in Andersonville prison, date not known, Andersonville national cemetery; Peter L. Hamilton, captured at Weldon railroad, died in Andersonville prison, September 6, 1864, Andersonville national cemetery; John H. Horn, captured at Weldon railroad, died in Andersonville prison, February 2, 1865, Andersonville national cemetery; Amzi T. Demaree, captured in Wilderness, died in southern prison; Samuel Level, captured in Wilderness, died in Andersonville prison, date not known, Andersonville national cemetery; John Tremain, captured in Wilderness, died in Salisbury, North Carolina, prison, November 11, 1864, Salisbury national cemetery.

Died of disease: Sergt. Joseph N. Self, at Elkwater, December 6, 1861, South Park cemetery; John W. Campbell at Cumberland, Maryland, December 15, 1861, Cumberland cemetery; Amos G. Connor, at Grafton, West Virginia, January 9, 1862, South Park cemetery; Robert W. Christian, at Phillipi, December 8, 1861, South Park cemetery; Nathan F. Fiscus, at Cumberland, February 2, 1862, Cumberland cemetery; James M. Huffman, at Cumberland, April 2, 1862, Cumberland cemetery; John W. Love, at Knoxville, Maryland, December 10, 1862, South Park cemetery; James McGrew, at Cumberland, February 2, 1862, Cumberland cemetery; William Orders, at Cumberland, February 2, 1862, Cumberland cemetery; George Rolan, at Cumberland, January 3, 1862, Cumberland cemetery; John H. Sefton, at Cumberland, February 5, 1862, Shiloh cemetery, Clinton township; Calvin C. Sisco, at Greensburg, March, 1862, South Park cemetery; Lafayette Sparks, at Cumberland, May 27, 1862, Cumberland cemetery; Hinkey Zook, at Fairfax, Virginia, 1862, Arlington National cemetery.

Wounded, not fatally: Dyar C. Elder, in Wilderness, arm and shoulder, mustered out with the regiment; Mortimer Burtch, accidental, discharged March 15, 1863; William L. Ford, in Wilderness, knee joint, mustered out with regiment; David Heifner, at North Anna river, mustered out with regiment; Ezra L. Lee, at Petersburg, mustered out with regiment; George



Miller, at Port Republic, discharged January 17, 1863; Matthew R. Porter, at Winchester, mustered out with regiment; Perry S. Tremain, at Weldon railroad, in knee, discharged October 20, 1863.

*Company G.*

Killed in action: Sergt. David B. Gageby, at North Anna river, May 25, 1864, buried on field; Joseph Beetem, at Petersburg, June 18, 1864, buried on field; Benjamin Higdon, at Yellow House, August 21, 1864, buried on field; James Higdon, at Chancellorsville, May 3, 1864, Fredericksburg cemetery; Charles Jones in Wilderness, May 5, 1864, body not recovered; Thomas McLaughlin, in Wilderness, May 5, 1864, body not recovered; Daniel J. McCoy, in Wilderness, May 5, 1864, body not recovered; John Patterson, at Manassas Plains, August 29, 1862, Arlington national cemetery; William T. Ryland, at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, body not recovered; McCowan H. Smith, in Wilderness, May 5, 1863, body not recovered.

Died of wounds: John N. Hann, wounded at South Mountain, died in hospital at Fredericksburg, Maryland, buried in Antietam national cemetery; Sydney R. Griswold, wounded at Winchester, died at Washington city June 22, 1862, Arlington national cemetery.

Died in prison: Sergt. Orion W. Donnell, captured at Yellow House, August 19, 1864, died at Salisbury, North Carolina, prison, November 14, 1864, Arlington national cemetery; Bazil G. Boyce, captured at Yellow House, August 19, 1864, died in Salisbury prison, October 28, 1864, Salisbury national cemetery; Newton J. Land, captured at Yellow House, August 19, 1864, died in Salisbury prison, January 13, 1865, Salisbury national cemetery; George M. Burk, captured at Weldon railroad, died in southern prison, date not reported; William Paul, captured at Yellow House, died in Andersonville prison, date not reported, Andersonville national cemetery.

Died of disease: Corp. John J. Robbins, at Elkwater, November 4, 1861, buried there; Moses Coen, at Cumberland, January 31, 1862, Cumberland cemetery; Charles S. Bailey, where and when, not known; William T. Kerrick, at Washington city, May 15, 1863, Arlington cemetery; James H. Kerrick, at Wheeling, West Virginia, February 10, 1862, Wheeling cemetery; George Hamily, at Fairfax, Virginia, June 18, 1862, Arlington national cemetery; John Lewis, at Elkwater, December 2, 1861, buried there; William Wick Lewis, at Philadelphia, 1865, buried in Mt. Carmel cemetery; George Wise, at Beverly, West Virginia, September 27, 1861, Beverly cemetery; Benjamin F. Worth, at Beverly, December 21, 1861, Beverly cemetery.

Wounded, not fatally: George Brickler, at Cathett's Station, in breast,

discharged January 6, 1862; James Gaynor, at Winchester, veteranized in 1864; George M. Meek, in Wilderness through breast, mustered out with regiment; James R. Cox, lost arm at Manassas Plains, August 29, 1862; William H. Perry, in mouth, in Wilderness, mustered out with regiment; Milo Robertson, in foot, at Gettysburg, mustered out with regiment; Henry Reddington, lost arm at Winchester, June 18, 1863, discharged, disability; John C. Roster, in leg, in Wilderness, mustered out with regiment; James M. Springer, through breast, in Wilderness, mustered out with regiment; Henry Thomson, through breast, at Winchester, lost leg in Wilderness, mustered out with regiment; William Walker, in leg at Fort Royal, mustered out with the regiment.

GREENSBURG BAND.

Died: George W. Rhiver, at Greensburg, April 21, 1862; William H. Crist, at Cumberland, Maryland, February 12, 1862, Cumberland cemetery; John H. Howard, at Elkwater, December 6, 1861, South Park cemetery.

THIRTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY.

*Company E.*

Killed in action: James E. Conner, at Elkins bridge, near Athens, Georgia, May 9, 1862, buried in field; Robert F. Heaton, at same place and date, Adams cemetery; James Jordon, same place and date, on field; John F. Morgan, same place and date, on field; Alfred C. Scull, same place and date, on field.

Died of wounds: Capt. Frank Hughes, February 2, 1862, Brownsville cemetery; Sergt. Willa A. Raynes, at Elizabethville, Kentucky, December 20, 1861, Vienna cemetery, Rush county; Martin Brooks, at Macon, Georgia, August 20, 1862, Macon national cemetery; Nicholas A. Butler, at Washington city, October 20, 1862, Arlington national cemetery; Will Deem, at Bacon Creek, February 15, 1862, South Park cemetery; Charles Hogan, at Adams, October 19, 1862, Adams cemetery; Jacob Maharry, at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, April 1, 1862, Murfreesboro national cemetery; Joseph A. Markes, at Elizabethtown, December 18, 1861, Elizabethtown national cemetery; Will Richey, at Chattanooga, August 10, 1864; Reuben Smawley, at Bacon Creek, February 2, 1862, South Park cemetery; John B. Stagsdill, captured, died at Macon, October 14, 1864, Macon cemetery; Thomas S. Tevis, at Charlotte, North Carolina, October 12, 1862, Charlotte cemetery; James Whipper, at Bacon Creek, December 30, 1861, on field; James Trackwell, at

Elizabethtown, December 10, 1861, near Cynthiana, Rush county; Albert Wootnes, at Bacon Creek, January 9, 1863, on field.

Wounded, not fatally: Capt. Mahlon C. Connett, seven wounds at Elkins bridge, May 9, 1862, resigned February 26, 1863; Marion Garrett, at Elkins bridge, May 9, 1862, through breast, discharged January 27, 1863; James A. Hanger, at Elkins bridge, May 9, 1862, deserted February 19, 1863; James Tillison, at Elkins bridge, May 9, 1862, discharged August 1, 1862; Buckner C. Whitlow, at Elkins bridge, May 9, 1862, August 1, 1862; John F. Wolverton, at Elkins bridge, May 9, 1862, transferred to reorganized Thirty-seventh.

*Company H.*

Killed in action: Sergt. Joel M. Proctor, at Pumpkinvine Creek, Georgia, May 27, 1864, Marietta national cemetery; John S. Hall, at Stone's River, December 31, 1862, Stone's River national cemetery; William R. Murray, at Stone's River, December 31, 1862, Stone's River national cemetery; James W. Pleak, at Dallas, Georgia, May 27, 1864, Marietta national cemetery; Harrison Robbins, at Stone's River, December 31, 1862, Stone's River national cemetery; Samuel William, at Stone's River, December 31, 1862, Stone's River national cemetery.

Died of wounds. Capt. James H. Burk, at Pumpkinvine Creek, Georgia, July 9, 1864, Burk's Chapel; Sergt. Benjamin L. Demoss, at Chattanooga, May 10, 1862, Chattanooga national cemetery; James L. Buck, died at Nashville, January 10, 1862, Nashville national cemetery; Alfred Watson, at Nashville, July 24, 1864, Nashville national cemetery.

Died of diseases: William H. Burk, at Louisville, July, 1863, Louisville cemetery; Sergt. John Jones, at Bowling Green, Kentucky, March 14, 1862, Bowling Green national cemetery; Corp. John J. Paul, at Jackson, Tennessee, March 5, 1862, Bowling Green national cemetery; George C. W. Diggs, at Bowling Green, March 2, 1862, Bowling Green national cemetery; Henry Day, at Murfreesboro, March 12, 1863, Murfreesboro national cemetery; Hiram Fredenburg, at Evansville, November 4, 1863, Evansville cemetery; Jacob A. Hutchinson, at Murfreesboro, February 11, 1863, Murfreesboro national cemetery; William Laforge, at Camp Jefferson, Kentucky, January 5, 1862, Camp Jefferson cemetery; Elisha G. Patrick, at Huntsville, July 13, 1862, Patrick's cemetery, Clay township; James R. Scott, at Nashville, October 9, 1862, Nashville national cemetery; Thomas W. Shera, at Stone's River, May 4, 1863, Mt. Olive cemetery, near Alert; Zemri Shaw, at Murfreesboro, April 14, 1863, Murfreesboro national cemetery.

Wounded, not fatally: Sergt. Cyrus A. Jackson, at Pumpkinvine Creek, discharged January 9, 1863; Corp. John M. Roop, at Stone's River, discharged February 9, 1863; Francis F. McCracken, at Stone's River, discharged March 2, 1863; John L. Hice, at Stone's River, mustered out with the regiment; William G. Sharp, at Stone's River, mustered out with regiment; David Stone Cypher, discharged June 6, 1862; William A. Thompson, discharged October 24, 1863.

*Company K.*

Corp. James H. Rankin, killed at Peachtree Creek, Georgia, July 2, 1864, Spring Hill cemetery; William W. Hamily, died of disease at Louisville, June 8, 1863, Louisville cemetery.

FIFTY-SECOND REGIMENT.

*Company B.*

Frozen to death: Capt. Edwin Alexander, at Island No. 10, December 31, 1863, buried in South Park cemetery; David W. Dean, at Island No. 10, same date, at Fort Pillow; William M. Falconbury, at Island No. 10, same date, South Park cemetery; George W. Havelin, at Island No. 10, same date, at Fort Havlin; William Tyler, at Island No. 10, same date, at Fort Pillow; George W. Wilson, at Island No. 10, same date, at Fort Pillow.

Killed in action: Joshua Barnes, at Fort Blakely, Alabama, April 4, 1863, on field; John Pettit, at Durkamsville, Tennessee, September 2, 1862, on field; Joseph Regan, at Fort Donelson, February 15, 1862, on field.

Died of wounds: Edward Roe, June 25, 1864, received at Collinsville, Tennessee.

Died of disease: Perry S. Brisbain, at St. Louis, April 2, 1862, St. Louis cemetery; Francis A. Barton, at St. Louis, October 6, 1864, St. Louis cemetery; John Frost, at St. Louis, May 12, 1862, St. Louis; Martin Louthan, April 16, 1862, place not reported; Timothy Moore, at Murfreesboro, January 12, 1865, Murfreesboro national cemetery; Alfred Madden, at St. Louis, June 5, 1862, St. Louis; Jeremiah Morgan, at St. Louis, December 20, 1862, St. Louis cemetery; Ferrill Roark, at Memphis, October 2, 1862, St. Louis cemetery; James Rupel, drowned, March 7, 1864, where, not reported; Sylvester Yoder, at Scipio, July 23, 1862, Scipio cemetery.

Wounded, not fatally: James Alexander, discharged August 1, 1862; John Milholland, Sr., discharged October 29, 1862; William H. O'Donnell, discharged March 7, 1862.



*Company C.*

Francis Corwin, August 3, 1863, not reported where.

*Company F.*

Horatio May, at Andersonville, Indiana, December 28, 1862, Andersonville cemetery; William H. Thompson, at Andersonville, May 5, 1862, Andersonville cemetery.

## SIXTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY.

Killed in action: William Griffin, Company D, at Chickamauga, September 19, 1863, Chickamauga national cemetery; George G. Hankins, I, at Chickamauga, September 19, 1863, Chickamauga national cemetery; John W. Gilmore, I, missing and supposed killed at Missionary Ridge; Solomon H. Patrick, I, at Chickamauga, September 19, 1863; William P. Sutfin, at Chickamauga, September 19, 1863, Chickamauga national cemetery; Franklin T. Showalter, I, at University, Tennessee, August 9, 1863; John P. Shumm, I, at Nashville, April 20, 1863, Nashville national cemetery.

Died of disease: Samuel Hone, A, at Andersonville prison, July 14, 1864, Andersonville national cemetery; Joseph H. Gantt, A, at Murfreesboro, April 15, 1864, Murfreesboro national cemetery; John H. Burns, A, captured and died in Richmond prison, February 19, 1864; John T. Becraft, F, at Nashville, March 3, 1863, Nashville national cemetery; Thomas Clendenning, I, at Nashville, March 4, 1864, Nashville cemetery; George C. Dement, A, at Newpoint, December 14, 1864, Rossburg cemetery; Andrew J. Gilmore, I, in field, Tennessee, July 20, 1865; George W. Higgs, I, at University, Tennessee, August 8, 1863; Thomas Hooten, A, at Pennington Farm, Tennessee, July 20 1865; Samuel Hise, A, in Andersonville prison, July 14, 1864; Walter S. Lange, D, at Murfreesboro, May 19, 1862; Joseph L. Nelan, A, at Louisville, September 28, 1863; John W. Stafford, I, in Andersonville prison, June 25, 1864; William Spera, I, at Nashville, July 8, 1863, Nashville national cemetery; John F. Thompson, I, at Cowan, Tennessee, August 15, 1863; James Wynn, I, at Nashville, March 26, 1863, Nashville national cemetery; Robert Woodward, A, at Nashville, June 16, 1864, Nashville national cemetery.

## SEVENTY-SIXTH REGIMENT.

Lieut. Robert Braden was detailed to Company D, Seventh Indiana Infantry, and James M. Pierce was drowned at Cannelton, Indiana, July 26, 1862.

EIGHTY-THIRD REGIMENT.

*Company E.*

Lieut. Benjamin Bridges, killed at Vicksburg, December 28, 1862; Lieut. Darius M. Dodd, died at Memphis, October 2, 1863, Memphis national cemetery; William R. Lanius, died January 19, 1863; Oliver P. Andrews, at Mound City, Illinois, January 27, 1863; Huston J. Craig, at Young's Point, Louisiana, March 2, 1863; Matthew D. Evans, at St. Louis, March 29, 1863, St. Louis cemetery; Samuel Higgs, on hospital boat, January 23, 1863; James Harrell, at St. Louis, January 1, 1863, St. Louis cemetery; John W. Kelly, at Memphis, November 13, 1863, Memphis national cemetery; John M. Long, at St. Louis, May 14, 1863, St. Louis cemetery; Charles Lindsey, Company I, at Cairo, Illinois, March 18, 1863.

NINETIETH REGIMENT—FIFTH CAVALRY.

*Company H.*

John G. Aldridge, at Baltimore, Maryland, June 1, 1864; Alfred Austin, in Andersonville prison, November 27, 1864; John G. Shew, at Lexington, Kentucky, March 19, 1863; William F. Sumpter, at Florence, South Carolina, February 9, 1865.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

The Grand Army of the Republic has had six posts in Decatur county, at Greensburg, Newpoint, St. Paul, Westport, Clarksburg and Sardina, but only two of these, Greensburg and Westport, are now active. Death is fast claiming the old veterans and Greensburg Post now has only seventy-six members out of a total membership of over five hundred which it has enrolled during its career.

"Pap" Thomas Post No. 5 was established at Greensburg, July 2, 1879. This was before the Grand Army of the Republic had a state organization in Indiana and the local post was organized by Col. E. R. Chamberlain under the auspices of the Illinois department of the Grand Army of the Republic. As a matter of fact, the Greensburg Post claims to be the oldest in Indiana and should be No. 1 instead of No. 5. Thirty-five members were mustered in as charter members, and the following officers were elected on the initiatory night: Captain commander, Dr. John L. Wooden; senior vice-commander, M. D. Tackett; junior vice-commander, C. W. Harvey; quartermaster, J. F. Childs; surgeon, Dr. Samuel Maguire; chaplain, Rev.

B. F. Cavins; officer of the day, G. H. Dunn; officer of the guard, A. J. Smith; adjutant, W. W. Dixon; quartermaster-sergeant, J. M. Stevens; sergeant-major, Allen Withrow.

The names of the members are taken from the official records of the post in the order in which they appear: John F. Childs, Conrad Ehrhardt, George Higgs, John M. Stevens, Stephen Miller, Jacob Tice, L. H. Marshall, James Leggett, S. F. Rigby, E. Anderson, B. F. Cavens, George Sanders, John W. Sanders, William Bruner, Thomas T. Brown, D. C. Elder, J. N. Wallingford, Daniel Davis, L. Worcester, Thomas Mozingo, John Kirby, James B. Carter, Josiah Crume, H. H. Talbott, Samuel Light, B. T. Black, J. W. Lanham, James B. White, B. M. Ricketts, Aquilla Edwards, Frank M. Dowden, Henry B. Carter, Lewis Fortune, Charles Barton, George W. Hightower, John F. Wolverton, John E. Rhiver, James H. Gallup, Will Cumback, James W. Purvis, John Beeson, Giles E. White, George A. Bower, John Pierce, Samuel Wimmer, William S. Johnston, Henry C. Snell, J. N. Adams, John A. Meek, John H. Brown, George W. Buffington, Hanibald H. Burns, Henry Leswig, B. F. Wells, Perry S. Freeman, S. F. Hearn, Robert W. Snyder, John W. Terhune, Martin V. Bruner, Angus F. McCoy, William C. Dodd, Richard Braden, J. F. Kersey, George H. McKee, William Bruner, Jeremiah Evans, William L. Miller, William Footman, James Fortune, Jasper Maple, E. A. McWilliams, R. C. Hall, J. W. Garrison, Michael Grow, Samuel McCrory, James M. Hall, William Maynard, A. B. Armington, John Moulton, Richard Baker, Charles H. Little, Samuel L. Keeley, James Clemens, John J. Nesbit, John W. Whipple, Ira Tanner, William Dwyer, Solomon K. Ames, Peter H. Huber, Milton S. Siling, W. H. Vandever, Jerry B. Forbes, James F. Stewart, A. S. Creath, Majenca Oldham, William A. Doles, John Tucker, Lewis Graham, James H. Alyea, Jackson S. Riley, Andrew J. Terrell, James I. Gageby, Van B. Straight, David A. Davidson, Allen G. Bates, William H. Montgomery, William S. Ketcham, Henry Jones, David A. Tucker, Robert Miller, Jackson Isgrigg, David Short, James Endicott, John B. Hardeback, James R. Nicely, C. Anderson, John W. Stevens, James W. Fiscus, Taylor Meek, John W. Stout, Thomas Freil, R. Christian, H. H. Montgomery, John Foley, J. H. Kersey, Lewis J. Lafforge, William Harrell, Erastus S. Bussell, J. C. Barnard, Ezekiel Horstley, William Kennedy, G. W. Brown, W. A. Dryden, B. D. Fowler, James McConnell, Frank S. Soper, Henry Thomson, Marion Fiscus, E. F. Herrick, Bernard Muller, W. F. Bird, Thomas Doles, Zephemiah Lawrence, William Conquest, O. D. Martin, Elisha Chance, Matthias Herr, John R. Snook, James Kennedy, Robert H. Evans, E. K. Pond, N.

M. Higgins, W. H. Sedrick, Richard Literel, W. R. Elder, A. D. Reeves, James H. Pavy, James M. Berry, George Griffiths, F. W. Sisco, Isaac W. White, Alexander Ralston, John Suttles, Charles I. Ainsworth, Daniel Higdon, J. W. Burney, W. H. Jussey, Myron S. Harding, Merritt Dorsey, John Welsh, J. T. Applegate, W. D. Dailey, W. L. Hasbrouck, James H. Weeks, Jared S. Ryker, George W. Morgan, W. H. Walters, Robert Tillman, John C. Riley, Brumfield Turner, Jesse Jones, Squire Hittle, Paul R. Stage, Alfred M. Hooten, Josiah Savage, Samuel Barbour, Milton G. Moore, Lafayette Dillman, John H. Weaver, George N. Vanostram, John T. Glass, M. C. Welch, Edward E. Rouse, Joseph Drake, Moses Knox, John H. Alcorn, William M. Miller, Felix Gartin, B. F. Cooksey, David Bruner, John Jones, John T. Hazen, Frank Rahe, John Coy, George S. Dickey, J. F. Osting, Absolom Robbins, William Jones, William S. Smith, Jasper Cobb, O. C. Elder, George Durk, Barney Murray, George Wayner, William F. Marsh, Francis M. Kinney, James H. Conley, Robert B. Whiteman, J. W. Stivers, R. G. Adams, F. C. Eddleman, T. S. Hughes, R. H. Evans, J. S. Christy, James H. Cox, Jesse Miller, Charles Fromer, J. H. Kirkpatrick, Hugh D. Gallagher, J. H. St. John, John T. Sturgis, Thomas Edmeads, Henry W. Vogle, W. H. Binning, Matthew R. Porter, James B. Conover, Benjamin Ketcham, Milton G. Alyea, Nottingham Bradburn, B. F. McCoy, Samuel L. Anderson, Francis M. Crumes, Lewis A. Sturgis, J. B. F. Reed, John W. Taylor, Theodore Miller, W. A. Craig, William J. McClain, John Hunter, William N. Moberly, Joshua F. Cox, Thomas H. Kennedy, W. N. Rozzell, Judson Hays, James M. Hiner, Samuel F. Applegate, Charles B. Johnson, Daniel Miller, Spencer Clemmons, Thomas Hughes, Thomas Kratt, A. E. Hirshfield, John S. Marsh, T. B. Peery, Charles Smith, William McCune, R. D. Black, Henry Duncan, W. A. Lawson, James M. McConnell, Samuel Scott, James S. Elliott, Benjamin Ketcham, Isaac D. Waits, Charles W. Wiley, Harry H. Dowden, W. H. Snodgrass, James P. Long, Reuben Smalley, Noah Moody, R. F. Thomas, James G. Adkins, Moses Butcher, John Mullenix, D. W. Sanders, Joseph W. Hubbell, Oliver Perry Ennis, John F. Hinman, John Ehrhard, Samuel Brown, James L. Powner, Jacob L. Doll, Elihu Tooley, Samuel Jones, Edmund A. Trusler, Hugh Brison, E. D. Smith, Eli Hase, I. G. Wolverton, James C. Bell, George C. Conk, George W. Mowrer, James Leggitt, W. M. McKay, H. F. Witter, W. J. Crisler, Isadore Strawback, Joseph F. Wainwright, A. P. Bone, John Rankin, Daniel Coy, James Welch, W. S. Haycock, Ephriam Ashcraft, Edmond M. Garten, J. M. Tobias, Orlando Hood, Monroe Marsh, A. G. Fisher, Will-



iam R. Withers, John W. Boyd, Samuel Bruner, W. P. Wynkoop, William Douglass, J. J. Hazelrigg, G. B. Fleming, C. C. Ennis and James A. Wilson.

The present officers of "Pap" Thomas Post are as follows: W. W. Dixon, post commander; H. C. Snell, senior vice-commander; Benjamin Ketcham, junior vice-commander; O. C. Elder, chaplain; Samuel H. Stewart, surgeon; J. F. Childs, adjutant; A. S. Creath, quartermaster; J. S. Short, quartermaster-sergeant; Jasper Cobb, sergeant-major; J. N. Annis, officer of the day; Reuben Smalley, officer of the guard; A. Murphy, patriot instructor. It should be mentioned that the post has one living member, Reuben Smalley, who wears a medal of honor conferred upon him by Congress for distinguished bravery in the siege of Vicksburg. Mr. Smalley enlisted from Ripley county, but has lived most of his life since the war in Decatur county. He is the only living soldier in the county with such a medal and one of the very few in the United States who has been a recipient of official recognition on the part of Congress. One other Ripley county volunteer, and a later resident of Decatur county to receive this coveted honor was the late Jacob Overturf.

#### THE G. A. R. CANNON.

On May 19, 1897, the local Grand Army of the Republic post received a thirty-two-pound cannon, which was donated by the government. It was shipped to Greensburg from Portsmouth, Maine, and the post had to pay the freight charges of thirty-one dollars. It now stands in South Park cemetery and is flanked by the fifty thirty-two-pound balls which came with it. Major M. D. Tackett and Capt. Silas F. Rigby had charge of the placing of the cannon at its present location.

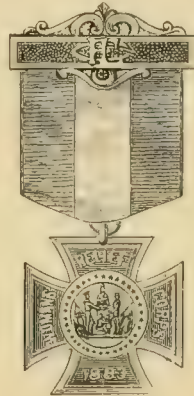
#### THE WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS.

The cause which led to the organization of the Woman's Relief Corps can be traced back to the first battlefield of the great Rebellion. The work of American women in the great conflict for the preservation of the Union was that of relief upon the field of battle, and in the hospital; relief for the wives and children of those at the front; relief for the widows and orphans of those who never returned.

The Grand Army of the Republic was organized by the "boys in blue" soon after the close of the war, to perpetuate the principles of fraternity, charity and loyalty, and to relieve the wants of their needy comrades. It soon became evident they needed the assistance which only loyal patriotic

women could give. In response to this demand, many societies were formed under various names; but it was not until July, 1883, by invitation of Paul Vandervoort, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, that representatives of societies from sixteen states met with the national encampment in Denver, and perfected a national organization to be known as the National Woman's Relief Corps, which was at once adopted by the encampment as the auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic. From this little band of fifty-six members, the membership is now more than one hundred and sixty thousand.

The objects of the Woman's Relief Corps are to assist the Grand Army of the Republic in caring for the Union veteran and his dependent ones; to perpetuate the memory of their heroic dead, and to inculcate lessons of



patriotism and love of country among the children and in the communities in which they live.

Patriotic teaching in the public schools was adopted in 1893. Thousands of flags, Declaration of Independence charts, oleographs of the origin and history of the Stars and Stripes, patriotic primers, flag drills and salutes have been presented the schools; one thousand primers and five hundred oleographs were sent to the commissioner of education in San Juan, Porto Rico, for distribution in their schools; one thousand primers and five hundred oleographs to Honolulu; five hundred primers and two hundred and fifty oleographs, with hundreds of flags, to the schools in the South. Flags and patriotic literature have also been sent the schools of Panama and New Mexico.

From the organization to March 31, 1914, \$4,428.064 have been expended for relief and Memorial day in the South.

"Pap" Thomas Corps No. 113 was instituted at Greensburg, May 21, 1888, with twenty-seven members, by Miss India Hackleman, assisted by Mrs. Ben Smith, Mrs. Mary Conover, Mrs. Lon S. Havens and Mrs. J. B. Reeve, all of Rushville. The charter members were, Joanna Elder, Clara Creath, Louisa M. Bone, Ella Hightower, Versie Bell, Ella Straisinger, Jane Stage, Mary L. Hearne, Elizabeth Leswing, Martha J. Alyea, Stella Alyea, Catharine Jones, Rose Bruner, Matilda Davis, Margaret Johnson, Flora B. Theis, Mellie D. Drake, Louisa V. Knox, Martha E. Garrison, Mary W. Scobey, Ella Childs, Eliza J. Crisler, Cyrena White, Margaret Trusler, Margaret Conquest, Alice M. Dowden and Lottie M. Ehrhardt. Of this number, eighteen are living, nine have been called home, and seven have withdrawn.

Our blessed Lord framed a memorial to perpetuate His own memory throughout all time when He said, "This do in remembrance of me." And when, in 1868, Gen. John A. Logan, then commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, designated the 30th day of May for the purpose of "strewing with flowers the graves of those who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet church-yard in the land," he builded for himself and them a memorial which will never disappear from American history.

And, believing it fitting that the living should also be remembered, in 1890 the Flower Mission was introduced, and like the mustard seed it has flourished, its branches reaching almost three thousand corps. By it, many darkened homes and sad hearts have been made brighter.

"For who so careth for the flowers,  
Will much more care for Him."

During the past year "Pap" Thomas Corps has expended for flowers for sick comrades and funerals, \$65.85.

Fifty-one orphans have been placed in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home at Knightstown, where they have every advantage of the children of well-to-do parents. A number of them now occupy positions of honor and trust.

Six hundred and ninety dollars have been spent for relief, and nine hundred and fifty dollars in necessities for relief. Each year ten dollars is turned over to the post, and five dollars for Memorial day in the South and for the Christmas fund.

The Greensburg schools have the proud distinction of being the first to adopt patriotic teaching as introduced by the Woman's Relief Corps.

Two large flags, ten by twenty feet in size, have been furnished city schools; one hundred patriotic primers, and one hundred oleographs of the origin and history of the Stars and Stripes, with flag drills and patriotic selections, have been presented the teachers of Decatur county; and Declaration of Independence charts furnished each school in Washington township.

Through the Woman's Relief Corps, a law was enacted by the Indiana Assembly in 1911, by which every school in Indiana may be provided with a flag, if the teacher asks for it.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The Daughters of the American Revolution was organized on October 11, 1890, in Washington, D. C., with eighteen members. The first president-general was Mrs. Caroline Scott Harrison, wife of Benjamin Harrison, then President of the United States, which position she held at the time of her death, October 25, 1902. The late Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks, also of Indiana, held this position from 1901 to 1905.



The objects of the society are, to perpetuate the memory of the men and women who achieved American independence; the protection of historical spots and the erection of monuments; the encouragement of historical research in relation to the Revolution and the publication of its results; the preservation of documents and relics, and of the records of the individual services of Revolutionary soldiers and patriots, and the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries; to carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people, "to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge," thus developing an enlightened public opinion and affording to young and old such advantages as shall develop in them the largest capacity for performing the duties of American citizens; to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.



Any woman is eligible for membership who is eighteen years of age, and is lineally descended from a patriot, man or woman, who aided in establishing American independence.

On March 1, 1915, one hundred fourteen thousand one hundred and sixty-six had been admitted to membership. There were one thousand four hundred and thirty chapters in the United States, and one each in Cuba, Mexico and the Philippines.

Memorial Continental Hall, at Washington, D. C., erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution, at a cost of more than five hundred thousand dollars, is the only such building erected by women, and was built by voluntary contributions, the chapters of Indiana contributing almost ten thousand dollars. It is of Vermont marble and in design and general appearance is a copy of the classic buildings of our Revolutionary period. The corner stone was laid on April 19, 1904, under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity; the gavel used was the one with which George Washington laid the corner stone of the national capitol in 1793. In this building all documents and records of the society are preserved, also priceless relics of the past. It is furnished throughout with magnificent old-time furniture and rare paintings, the gifts of chapters and individuals. The continental congress of the national society is held in this building.

Lone Tree Chapter No. 743 was organized in Greensburg by the state regent, Mrs. William Guthrie, April 6, 1907, with the following charter members: Mrs. Mary M. Tarkington Alexander, Mrs. Lida Montgomery Cobb, Mrs. Elizabeth Montgomery Craig, Mrs. Emma A. Donnell, Mrs. Eliza McNabb Eddleman, Mrs. Maude Kitchin Johnson, Mrs. Ella Robbins Kitchin, Mrs. Juliet Spliker Lemon, Mrs. Alice Gray Markland, Miss Sarah Gageby Montgomery, Miss Sue M. Montgomery, Miss Rebecca Montgomery, Miss Elizabeth Fulton Shirk, Mrs. Lizzie Woodfil Turner, Mrs. Pearl Kitchin Woodfil, Mrs. Eliza Talbott Wolverton, Annetta Wampler Shannon, Mrs. Ensebia Craven Stimson and Mrs. Rose Hendricks Zoller.

The first officers were Mrs. Ensebia C. Stimson, regent; Mrs. Lizzie W. Turner, vice-regent; Emma A. Donnell, secretary; Pearly K. Woodfil, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Eliza T. Wolverton, treasurer; Elizabeth F. Shirk, registrar, and Sue M. Montgomery, historian. The past regents are, Mrs. Stimson, Mrs. Turner, and Miss Donnell. The present (1915) officers and members are: Mrs. Jessie Riley, regent; Mrs. Maude Kitchin Johnson, vice-regent; Mary Wolverton, secretary; Mrs. Oliver Dickey Gilham, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Irma Cory Douglas, treasurer; Rebecca Montgomery, registrar, and Anna L. Riley, historian; Mrs. Mary M. Tarking-

ton Alexander, Mrs. Mabel Kennedy Bainbridge, Sadie Baker, Hannah Baker, Mrs. Elizabeth Gavin Bryan, Mrs. Lida Montgomery Cobb, Mrs. Elizabeth Montgomery Craig, Mrs. Eliza J. Stagg Crisler, Emma A. Donnell, Winona Crisler Deiwert, Mrs. Mollie Stoner Fogg, Mabel D. Foley, Mrs. Mary Spliker Haines, Grace E. Haines, Mrs. Flora Gaines Haas, Gertrude Haas, Mrs. Ella Robbins Kitchin, Sue M. Montgomery, Mrs. Stella Green Rucker, Patience Rucker, Mrs. Ethel Riley Ryan, Mrs. Laura Gates Sefton, Florence Sefton, Elizabeth Fulton Shirk, Mrs. Sarilda Robbins Smiley, Mrs. Ensebia Craven Stimson, Mrs. Lizzie Woodfil Turner, Pearl A. Williams, Mrs. Eliza Talbott Wolverton, Mrs. Pearl Kitchin Woodfil and Mrs. Rose Hendricks Zoller.

The chapter has lost, by death, Miss Sarah Gageby Montgomery, Mrs. Juliet Spilker Lemon, Mrs. Sarah Ann Gageby Montgomery, Mrs. Mary Jane Quick Mendenhall, Miss Bessie Craig and Mrs. Amanda Gageby Siling; by withdrawal, Mrs. Eliza M. Eddleman, Mrs. Alice G. Markland and Mrs. Mary Hendee Fradenburgh; by transfer, Mrs. Anna G. Stagg Magill.

At the last state conference, Miss Emma Donnell was elected state vice-regent, an honor well bestowed, and appreciated by the local chapter. On July 4, 1908, a large flag was presented to the public library, at which time an appropriate program was rendered. Markers have been provided for the graves of four Revolutionary soldiers, and ninety dollars contributed to the Memorial Continental Hall at Washington, D. C. The Michigan road, the most historic in Decatur county, will be marked with a handsome boulder bearing a bronze inscription tablet, to be presented to the city on Flag day, June 14, 1916, as Lone Tree Chapter's part in the celebration of the anniversary of Indiana's admission into the Union. The committee in charge is Pearl A. Williams, Mrs. Eliza J. Crisler and Mrs. Ensebia C. Stimson. The boulder will adorn the triangular lot at the intersection of North Michigan avenue and Ireland street, and will be a lasting tribute to the honored pioneers and a spot where the present and future generations may pause in reverence to the memory of the sturdy ancestors who opened the way to the present advanced civilization.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### GERMANS AND THE GERMAN INFLUENCE.

An account of the growth and development of Decatur county would be incomplete did it not make more than passing mention of the German influence that has been exerted there during the past three-quarters of a century. Germans were not the first settlers of the county. They were not the pioneers who first wielded the ax and felled the forest trees. Their voice was not heard in the formative period of the county, their arrival being considerably later.

German emigration from the Fatherland started in 1848, after the revolution there, and continued until the formation of the empire in 1871. In this score of years thousands of strong, self-reliant young men from Prussia, Hanover, Bavaria and the other German states poured into the United States. Dissatisfied with conditions at home and seeking a more perfect freedom, they came to this country intent upon establishing homes and remaining here. Local records of these immigrants show that most of them remained.

The Teuton came to the United States with the intention of following so far as possible the same occupation by which he made his livelihood in Germany. This was either in agriculture or in business. Thrifty, industrious and frugal, all he needed was a chance to establish himself and his success was assured.

Decatur county owes much to her German settlers. They came at a time when the best lands of the county were under cultivation and were producing profitable crops. The Germans did not seek this kind of land. What they wanted was that which could be purchased for a few dollars an acre, land which was generally regarded as almost worthless at that time. They made their settlements in Marion and adjacent townships, where the poor woods-land abounds, and started in to wrest from stubborn soil a living that would be adequate for their needs.

A less self-reliant race would have flinched from the undertaking; a less competent people would have failed entirely. But they persisted, build-

ing up the soil as best they could, guarding their slender savings and diligently striving to increase their stores. Today, a second or third generation has replaced many of these immigrants, and, practicing the same thrifty precepts inculcated by their sires and grandsires, have made the soil respond kindly to their efforts, have reared commodious barns and comfortable dwellings and made the one-time barren places resplendent with the yellow and gold of harvest time.

Some who had busied themselves in the marts of trade in the Fatherland, sought the city in preference to the rural community, engaged in merchandising and exchange, and built for themselves a reputation for honest dealing that is a dominant characteristic of the Teuton's contribution to the great American "melting pot."

The annals of Decatur county's German-Americans are brief. Their names appear infrequently in the court docket. They have rarely held or sought public office. They have industriously gone their several ways, minded their own business and permitted their neighbors to do the same without assistance or hindrance; have reared strong sons and daughters and prepared them for efficient and useful citizenship.

From the time Maximillian Schneider laid out the town of Millhousen and named it Muhlhousen for the ancient municipality in Alsace, German influence in Decatur county has been none the less marked because of its indirectness. A people that does nothing but set standards of living for the emulation of others has done enough.

The roster of these German-American residents of Decatur county is too long for individual discussion, but there are a few who may be taken as illustrative of the entire list. One of the first among those living might be Louis Zoller, vice-president of two financial institutions and a successful business man. Born in Bavaria, he worked for a time in Berlin, and then came to the United States to try his fortune in this country. He engaged for twenty-one years in the butcher business and then became a partner in a Greensburg dry goods store. He is now retired from active business pursuits, but the example of his fine success cannot be altogether lost upon a younger generation.

Barney Zapfe was one of the early settlers at Millhousen. He opened a store, made that store earn money, invested the money wisely and died possessed of a comfortable fortune. Barney Hardabeck—another early German-American—bought the first mill built at Millhousen, conducted a store and woollen mill and achieved financial independence. Joe and Julius



Rothschild, at Milford, conducted a store and woollen mill, treated the public fairly and honestly, and died wealthy.

John Johannes, president of the St. Paul Building and Loan Association, started the manufacture of wagons and buggies there upon a small scale, worked early and late, and is now possessed of a comfortable financial rating. John Puttmann, a leading citizen of Newpoint, owning a store and stone quarry and other property, started in life with nothing but the desire to succeed. George Metz, another Newpoint merchant, is also of German blood, as is also John Hoff, successful business man of that place. Henry Schroeder, Sr., the oldest resident living in Salt Creek township, came from Germany to Decatur county, through Louisville, Kentucky, a poor boy, and made his wealth by honest toil.

John Zollner and H. Kaby, who together monopolize the bakery business of Greensburg, are German-Americans. Daniel Silberberg, a German Jew, who recently died in New York City after accumulating a fortune, obtained his start to success in Greensburg. John Weimar came to the United States with little more than the shirt he wore upon his back. He became a shoemaker in Greensburg and stuck to his last so consistently that when he retired a few years ago he found himself comfortably well-off.

Charles Zoller was elected county treasurer in 1874. Henry Metz became one of the wealthiest farmers in Fugit township and once failed to be elected county commissioner by just one vote. Joe Herbert purchased the Millhousen flour-mill from Barney Hardabeck and managed it with success and profit.

And so the list might be run through its entirety. None of them achieved more than local distinction, but none of them fell into disrepute at home or abroad. They ran their mills, they garnered their harvests, they watched their tills and yet, withal, found plenty of time for recreation and for service.

Decatur county's naturalization records exist only from 1867, when German immigration was at high tide and almost ready to subside. Since then two hundred and eighty men of foreign birth have been admitted to the privileges and duties of citizenship. Of this number, all but eighty-seven were born in Germany. Following is the list complete:

#### NATURALIZED CITIZENS.

1867—Caspar Menkhans, Germany; Leopold Bahn, Russia; James Breheng, England; Caspar Camm, Switzerland; Henry Eichgara, Germany; John Miller, France; Caspar Voeka, Germany.

1868—Frederick Schroder, Germany; Ignatz Borchard, Germany; Henry Winker, Germany; Christopher Horstman, Germany; Christian H. Winker, Jr., Germany; Christian H. Winker, Sr., Germany; Christian Horstman, Germany; William Teraat, Prussia; Deidrick Hudler, Germany; George Schever, Germany; William Buch, Prussia; G. Henry Pottmann, Germany; Nicholas Burgurgh, Germany; Henry Brinkmann, Germany; Henry L. Wynkes, Prussia; John Wack, Germany; Solomon Ganz, Sachsen Weimar; Wendelin Fox, Germany; Henry Shaffer, Germany; John Laubenthal, Prussia; Barney Heidemann, Prussia; Henry Shrader, Germany; Hugh Waters, Ireland; William Rowman, England; Raymond Loarkim, Germany; George Weber, Bavaria; Michael Hannon, Ireland; John Hannon, Ireland; Henry Macke, Germany; Louis Zoller, Bavaria; John Goeding, Prussia; Bernard Blenker, Prussia; Luke Moore, Ireland; William Brone, Hanover; August Buddemier, Prussia; Chris Mier, Hanover; Charles H. Miller, Prussia; Frederick Brenner, Prussia; Frederick Miene, Prussia; Christ Chrisler.

1869—Michael Zeigler, Germany.

1870—Michael Hyland, England; Frederick Shrader, Prussia; Henry Heier, Prussia; George Loslein, Bavaria; Thomas Adams, England; George Corscadden, Ireland; Henry Stretmier, Germany; George Acheson, Ireland; Barney Hoeing, Prussia; William F. Deisher, Germany; Martin Madden, Ireland; Bernard Talkenberg, Germany; Martin Monkendorf, Germany; Andrew Little, England; Louis Schmitt, Bavaria; William Dews, England; Remick Wanner, Germany; John Schild, Switzerland; Herman Freising, Hanover; Henry Hight, England; Joseph Hollander, Bavaria; Peter Fonseth, Holland.

1871—Casper Schnieder, Germany; Thomas Brannon, Ireland; Barney Fritz, Germany; John G. Theurer, Germany.

1872—Henry Schmidt, Germany; Frederick Bauer, Germany; Frederick Hoffman, Germany; Daniel Davarn, Ireland; Philip Borck, Germany; Henry Schrieber, Germany; Barney Tonyes, Germany; Michael Connally, Ireland; John Metz, Germany; Joseph Launderville, England; Edward Ryan, Ireland; John Emmert, Germany; Adam Hartiges, Germany; John Mathews, Austria; Huber Martin, Austria; Theodore Frazer, England; Isidor Hock, Germany; Anton Ransch, Germany; Oswald, Switzerland; Joseph Stier, Germany; John Schroth, Germany; Frank H. Mayer, Germany; John F. Waldhans, Germany; Thomas Smith, England; William Rinking, Germany; Nicholas Schroth, Bavaria; Diedrick Rilmeyer, Germany; August Want, Germany; Frank H. Holtmeyer, Hanover; Joseph Bonchard, France; John Klutz, Germany; Adam Erhart, Germany; Thomas Finn, England; William Ensemeier, Germany; Leoa Joly, France; William Brunkhorsh,

Germany; Charles Meyer, Germany; Joseph Edelstein, Russia; Charles Voltz, Germany.

1874—James Davis, Ireland; Anton Minster, Germany; William G. Gommett, Germany; William Huddler, Prussia; Louis Hammer, Germany; Phillip Kanarr, Germany; John Riley, Ireland; John Evans, Germany; John Smith, Sweden; Edward Stolle, Germany; Frank Sieves, Germany; George Stahl, Bavaria; Charles Grumbelbeck, Germany; L. Joseph Trilling, Prussia; Michael Greibhuhl, France.

1875—George Wendt, Prussia; William H. Wegener, Germany.

1876—Christian G. Maisch, Germany; Henry Scherschligh, Prussia; George Bessler, Prussia; Tony Halter, France; Frank Wack, Germany; Benjamin Faust, Germany; George Savaller, Canada; Edward Roach, Ireland; Rudolph Keller, Germany; Edwin Hillier, England; Sichmund Wachtel, Germany; Joseph Hegermann, Germany; John Coney, France; Abton Pfeifer, Germany; Peter Haunsz, Germany; Charles Kanarr, Germany; Valentine Goskie, Prussia; Frederick Rentzelmann, Germany; Frank H. Meyer, France; Martin Date, Germany; Ferdinand Pulking, Germany; Edward Phillips, England; William A. Garrett, England; John Hornung, Germany; Michael Clements, Germany; Alfred Maynard, England; Henry Fernading, Germany; Jacob Clementz, France; Harman Thieman, Germany; Laurence Hook, Germany; Henry Esaman, Prussia.

1878—Jone E. Jones, England; John Myers, Germany; Reinhold Moehleissen, Wurttemberg; James Farrell, England; John Woods, England; Alexander Neal, Wurttemberg; Joseph Esebett, France; Parks Tempest, England; James Fenn, Ireland; Christian Thrin, Germany; Henry Link, Germany.

1880—Patrick Kearns, Ireland; August Finemann, Germany; John J. Fauth, Germany; Joseph Bachebele, Germany; John W. Kemper, Germany; William Kuhn, Germany; John Thomas Hock, Germany; Clement F. DeCroes, France; Henry M. Vahlenkamp, Germany; George Reisenweber, Germany; William Haase, Germany; Henry Haase, Germany; Ferdinand Kock, Germany.

1882—Henry Niemann, Germany; Barney Moormann, Germany; Henry Moormann, Germany; Barney Kremer, Germany; George Miller, Germany; Thomas Woods, Ireland; Signond Harsany, Hungary; Falinten Gutting, Germany; John Pohlman, Holland; John B. Blankmann, Germany; Valentine Bork, Germany; George Newberry, England; Joseph Wugerpfenig, Germany.

1884—Gottlieb Holzwarth, Germany; Henry Weis, Germany; Joseph Parker, England; Martin Kelly, England; Jacob Knarr, Germany; Charles

Boahnka, Germany; Patrick Griffin, England; John W. Melloh, Germany; Bvordem Esche, Germany; Wilhelm Bachmann, Germany; Henry Dreves, Germany; John Woods, England; Henry Ortman, Germany; August Wucherpennig, Germany; Rudolph Keller, Germany; Bernard Busche, Germany; Frederick O. Mobius, Germany; Frederick Pfeifer, Germany; Alfred Eggers, Germany; Christian Link, Germany.

1886—John N. Stier, Germany; Michael Darmedy, Ireland; Herman Westerfield, Germany; William Westerfeld, Germany; Nicholass Hennenfent, Germany; Jacob M. F. Henrichs, Germany; Frank H. Vollmer, Germany; Clamor Seibert, Germany; Henry Seibert, Germany; Joseph Herel, Germany; John Zollner, Germany; Henry Kriger, Germany.

1888—John Henry Picker, Germany; Joseph Litman, Germany; Henry Thielking, Germany; John Thompson, Scotland; John Ferlan, Germany; John Bessler, Germany; Henry Vogel, Germany; Henry W. Cosfoid, England; Louis Holler, Germany; Adam Knerr, Germany.

1889—Albert Wucherpfebbig, Germany; Henry P. Welker, Germany.

1890—William H. Barthel, Sweden; Christopher Miller, Germany; Henry Rabjahns Lune, England; John Sicmer, Germany; John M. Krone, Germany.

1891—Fred Weyt, Germany; Barney Hoeing, Prussia.

1892—Andrew Miller, Germany; Joseph Schnoitgoke, Germany; Jacob Levenson, Russia; John Byer, Prussia; Joseph Byer, Prussia; Gustavo Wullschleger, Switzerland; Philip Thompson, England; Joseph Moorman, Germany; John G. Mayor, Germany; John Adams, Germany; Carl Parsch, Germany.

1894—Nicholas Rosenstengel, Germany; Joseph Lammardauk, Germany; William G. Haddade, Syria, Asia; Frank Ployer, Germany; Jacob Bender, Germany; August Price, Germany; John Geisel, Switzerland; Clem Austing, Germany; Fred Austing, Germany; John C. Stier, Germany; Mike Miser, Russia.

1896—Lauvit H. Schelva, Norway; John Schneider, Germany; Louis Levenstein, Russian Poland; John Gettelenger, Germany.

1898—John Kuert, Switzerland; Christian Weimes, Germany; Albert Keen, Germany.

1900—James Donohue, Ireland.

1901—Frederick Ehrhard, Germany.

1907—Sam Levenstein, Russia.

1909—Jacob Telles, Austria.

1910—Henry Nieman, Germany.

1912—Johan W. Hilland, Sweden.



## CHAPTER XX.

### EARLY ELECTIONS IN DECATUR COUNTY.

There is no more interesting field to the historian than that of politics and in no field is it so difficult to arrive at definite conclusions. It is natural that newspapers should set forth the virtues of the political party which they support and at the same time try to discount any possible merits which opposition parties might have. In the early history of our country this feature was more pronounced than it is today, although there are still partisan papers which would have their readers believe that their particular party had a monopoly on all the political wisdom of the country. In the days of Jackson, in the thirties and forties, party spirit ran high, and opposition papers vied with each other in vitriolic remarks. To the Jackson followers, John Quincy Adams was the acme of aristocracy, the arch enemy of democracy and a man who hated the common herd. On the other hand, the followers of Adams pictured the old warrior as a Mephistopheles, a demon with a fire-brand in each hand and a man who would plunge his country into anarchy. Even gentle and unassuming as William Henry Harrison was, the Democratic papers made him out as a disciple of the Evil One, a man who made a diet of whiskey alone and a weakling who had neither brains nor courage. Such, in general, was the condition of politics up to 1840.

### STATE POLITICS (1816-24).

The first vote for President in Indiana was taken in 1824. In 1816 and 1820 the Presidential electors had been chosen by the state Legislature. There were no clearly defined parties in the state during the eight years preceding 1824. All were followers of Jefferson and called themselves Republicans. However, no boss ever controlled a state more perfectly than did Governor Jennings the young state of Indiana. He lived at Jeffersonville, where he could take advantage of the anti-slavery sentiment and the desire of the people to move the capital to the center of the state. William Hendricks, of Madison, and Senator James Noble, of Brookville, were the other members of this early triumvirate.

It was against these conditions the people of the state rose in rebellion under Jackson—an attempt by the common people to take a hand in the government. The leaders tried to head off the uprising, but were unsuccessful. Clay had a strong following in all parts of the state. It was thought the people could agree on him. Admirers of Clay got together and put an electoral ticket in the field.

In the meantime the reputation of Jackson was rapidly spreading. His services in the Revolution, in the Creek War and at New Orleans helped, but his chief claim to popular support was the fact that he was not a politician. "He knows nothing of politics," was the argument of his friends.

Straw votes were taken at the county musters. At Richmond such a vote showed 116 for Adams, 37 for Jackson and 8 for Clay. One at Spencer, Owen county, gave Jackson 57; Clay, 42, and Adams, 9. One at Lawrenceburg gave Jackson 305, Clay, 90, and Adams, 70. One at Indianapolis gave Clay 158, Adams 2, and Jackson 2. In Washington county a straw vote gave Jackson 88 out of a total of 132.

Pursuant to call, the state convention of Jackson men met in the court house at Salem, September 18, 1824. Eighteen delegates, representing thirteen counties, were present. Each delegate was required to present his properly signed credentials before being admitted. Samuel Milroy, of Washington county, was made chairman. Jacob Call, of Vincennes, was made secretary. David Robb, Samuel Milroy, Elias McNamee, Jonathan McCarty and John Carr were placed on the electoral ticket.

The platform was unique. It was, first of all, a eulogy of Jackson. He was heralded as the second Washington. Just as George Washington had shown himself a trusty statesman, so would General Jackson prove to be. Alexander, Caesar and Napoleon had tyrannized over a corrupt people. Jackson came to rescue the people from corruption. The present officers, it was pointed out, were engaged primarily in petty thieving, and no less a master than Old Hickory would be necessary to drive the money changers from the temple.

It would be interesting to know how the campaign was carried on, but the records fail us. Jackson carried twenty-four counties and received 7,343 votes in the state. Clay carried twenty-six counties, with 5,315 votes. Adams carried two counties, with 3,093 votes. In general, Clay was supported by the politicians, Adams by the settlers from the East and Jackson by those from the South.

## FIRST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN DECATUR COUNTY.

Care has been taken to examine the early election returns in Decatur county, and below follow some interesting facts and figures:

The following was the vote cast at the first election ever held for Presidential electors in Indiana, November 6, 1824. There was no contest in 1820, when James Monroe was re-elected, hence no election. There could not have been an election in Decatur county anyway, because the county was not organized until 1822.

Decatur county entered the political arena by casting a preference for Henry Clay. There were only 144 votes cast in the county, as follows:

	Clay	Jackson	Adams
Washington -----	41	52	11
Fugit -----	24	3	6
Sand Creek -----	7	0	0
	—	—	—
Total -----	72	55	17

Plurality for Clay, 17.

It will be observed that if the Adams men had voted with the Jackson men, it would have been a tie. Adams township, which contained about the same number of voters as Fugit, was not counted by the returning board on the ground that the returns had not been properly made. The election commissioners were Samuel Bryan, Andrew McCoy and Martin Adkins. The record was made to Henry H. Talbott, county clerk, who made out the report, which was duly signed by the three gentlemen named above. There is no list of the names of voters, which would be of interest had they been preserved.

At this election, and also in 1828, Indiana was entitled to only five electors. In 1832 the number was increased to nine, and Indiana began to cut quite a figure in national elections.

## THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1828.

During the four years between 1824 and 1828 the voting population of Decatur county increased from 144 to 638, or more than fourfold. General Jackson was again a candidate, and, although he carried the state by 22,237 votes against 17,625 for Adams, he did not carry Decatur county, although he did run a pretty good "hickory."

The vote was as follows:

	Adams	Jackson
Washington -----	259	211
Fugit -----	28	44
Adams -----	28	33
Clay -----	23	4
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Total -----	346	292

Adams's majority, 54.

Sand Creek township failed to record her vote, although she cast seven votes in 1824. The election commissioners were Ben Jones, Griffey Griffiths, Isaiah Kimble and William Hopkins.

#### THE FIRST COUNTY ELECTION IN 1823.

The first county election in Decatur county was held on Monday, August 4, 1823, to elect a state senator for eight counties, Marion, Madison, Hamilton, Johnson, Henry, Rush, Shelby and Decatur; a member of the House for four counties, Henry, Rush, Shelby and Decatur; a county commissioner, and to decide whether a convention should be held.

For senator, John Brison led with 163 votes; James Gregory, 76; S. G. Mitchell, 21; scattering, 7.

For representative, William Hendricks, 126; John Hopkins, 82; Griggs, 24, Glass, 10.

The vote for commissioner was as follows:

	Washington	Fugit	Adams
William Parks -----	125	13	1
William Henderson -----	6	61	40
James Long -----	14	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total -----	145	75	43

For convention, 43.

Against convention, 208.

Parks had been appointed one of the first three by Governor Jennings. The other two members were Seth Lowe and William Harbard.

There were then only three townships. Washington township was in the center and ran from east to west, the entire breadth of the county, embracing what is now Marion, Sand Creek, Jackson, Clay, Washington and Salt Creek



townships. Fugit had its present limits and the eastern half of Clinton township. Adams embraced its present territory and the western half of Clinton township. It is interesting to note how sparsely settled the county must have been at that time. Washington township cast only 104 votes in 1824. Probably half of these voters lived outside of the then struggling little village of Greensburg, which could not possibly have had a population of over 300 souls, and was only two and a half years old.

#### FIRST TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS.

The first election of any kind held in the county was the township election held on June 1, 1822, to elect justices of the peace. Two justices were elected in Washington and one in each of the other townships. In Washington the election was held at the home of Thomas Hendricks, with Richard Hall as inspector; in Fugit at the home of Thomas Throp, with Isaac Darnell as inspector; in Adams at the home of Edward Tanner, with Paul Brown as inspector. William Miller and William O. Ross were appointed constables for Washington; Henry Hobbs for Fugit, and Solomon Robinson and Daniel Howard for Adams, by the county commissioners.

#### PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1832.

In 1824 Henry Clay received 72 votes in the county, Andrew Jackson 55, and J. Q. Adams 17. In 1828 J. Q. Adams received 346 and Jackson 292. It will be observed that the pioneer fathers and grandfathers of Decatur county showed a decided preference for Henry Clay and the Whig party. The voting population was increasing rapidly. In 1832 the vote was as follows:

	Clay	Jackson
Washington -----	429	276
Fugit -----	40	16
Clinton -----	19	9
Adams -----	22	34
Clay -----	20	41
Sand Creek -----	9	29
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total -----	539	405
Clay's majority, 134.		

Marion township was organized, but did not vote for some reason. The vote in the state was: Clay, 15,472; Jackson, 31,552.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1836.

It was not until 1836 that all the townships lined up and voted for President. The result was as follows:

	Harrison	Van Buren
Washington -----	590	274
Fugit -----	98	54
Clinton -----	24	19
Adams -----	97	34
Clay -----	67	75
Jackson -----	20	7
Sand Creek -----	31	35
Marion -----	8	1
Salt Creek -----	15	11
Total -----	950	513

Harrison's majority, 437.

Harrison carried the state with 41,281 votes to 32,480 cast for Van Buren, but the latter was elected.

In 1840 the total vote again got a big boost, and the Whig majority continued to increase. Clay and Jackson townships were the only ones that went Democratic. The result was as follows:

	Harrison	Van Buren
Washington -----	729	331
Fugit -----	100	43
Clinton -----	73	42
Adams -----	117	66
Clay -----	61	94
Jackson -----	24	31
Sand Creek -----	96	96
Marion -----	52	21
Salt Creek -----	46	35
Total -----	1,298	759

Harrison's majority, 539.

Harrison again carried the state with 65,362 votes to 51,695 cast for Van Buren. The vote in Sand Creek township at this election was a tie—96 to 96.

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1844.

	Clay	Polk
Washington -----	615	380
Fugit -----	132	87
Clinton -----	54	16
Adams -----	128	107
Clay -----	87	157
Jackson -----	39	74
Sand Creek -----	109	171
Marion -----	62	62
Salt Creek -----	49	37
Total -----	1,275	1,091
Clay's majority, 184.		

## DECATUR COUNTY ELECTION IN CIVIL WAR.

Party spirit ran high during the Civil War and personal encounters on election day were of very frequent occurrence. On October 14, 1863, an election was held for state and county officials, and, although the state went Democratic, Decatur returned a majority for the Union ticket. The vote in the county was as follows:

	Union	Democratic	Majority
Secretary of state-----	1,834	1,674	159
Congress -----	1,856	1,673	173
Representative -----	1,827	1,685	142
Sheriff -----	1,840	1,672	168
Treasurer -----	1,848	1,664	184
Commissioner first district-----	1,827	1,666	161
Commissioner second district---	1,827	1,662	165

The vote by townships for secretary of state was as follows:

	Union	Democratic
Washington -----	609	259
Fugit -----	220	132
Clinton -----	79	54
Adams -----	206	196
Clay -----	196	226
Jackson -----	130	217
Sand Creek -----	115	228
Marion -----	125	245
Salt Creek -----	154	118
Total -----	1,834	1,675

Union majority, 159.

CONGRESSIONAL VOTE.

Colonel Gavin, for Congress, carried this county by 173 and Ohio by 7. The other counties went for Holman, who was re-elected by 2,934. Even Rush county gave Holman 208 majority. The state went Democratic by 9,591. The Democrats elected seven members of Congress, while the Union party got four, Julian, Dumont, Orth and Colfax. The Democrats had Law, Cravens, Harrington, Holman, Voorhees, Edgerton and McDowell.

COUNTY OFFICIALS.

D. R. VanBuskirk, for representative, defeated Captain Bemusdaffer by 142; Philip Mowrer defeated W. H. Carroll by 168; James Morgan, for treasurer, defeated William A. Manlove by 184; Abel Withrow, for coroner, defeated J. M. Watson by 171; Morgan James and Wren Grayson were elected commissioners by 161 and 165, respectively.

The result of the election in Decatur county was very gratifying to the Union party. Over a thousand men were absent in the army at this time. Practically all of them would have supported the Union ticket if they had been at home.



## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1860.

The election of 1860 was one of the most bitterly contested in the whole history of Decatur county, coming as it did on the eve of the Civil War. As will be seen from the accompanying table, Lincoln carried all but three townships, while the Republican majority over the Douglas Democrats was 482. Breckenridge received only 93 votes in the whole county, and Bell, the candidate of the Constitutional-Union party, received only 20 votes. The vote by townships for Lincoln and Douglas was as follows:

	Lincoln.	Douglas.
Washington township -----	605	254
Fugit township -----	280	120
Clinton township -----	82	62
Adams township -----	227	186
Clay township -----	213	201
Jackson township -----	161	201
Sandcreek township -----	144	180
Marion township -----	151	215
Saltcreek township -----	165	127
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals -----	2,028	1,546

## CHAPTER XXI.

### LITERARY GLIMPSES.

It may be a surprise to many to know that Decatur county has produced several people who have courted the muses, but when a request for original verse for a chapter in this volume was made, a hearty response came from all parts of the county. While it is not possible to reproduce all that has been submitted, yet sufficient is given in succeeding pages to convince the most skeptical that the county has some who can at least "lisp in numbers." It may be true that some of the lisp is not up to the Shakespearean standard, but there is satisfaction in knowing that many people in the county have made an effort to emulate the immortal Bard of Avon. The author does not presume to say that all of the verse submitted has real poetic merit; it is given for what it is worth, without any comment, and the reader may be the judge of its value.

The late Will Cumback is one of the prominent writers the county has had, and some of his verses have the true poetic gift. As an orator and statesman, he is better known to those familiar with Indiana's famous men than as a poet. But though the number of poems which he wrote was not large, they were all of a character which made them a factor for happiness with all who read them. Mr. Cumback was born in Franklin county, Indiana, March 24, 1829. Being reared on the farm, his early educational advantages were limited. Studying law and beginning its practice, he soon attained considerable reputation as a public speaker. When barely twenty-five he was elected to Congress. Following that he was presidential elector, paymaster of the army, state senator, lieutenant-governor and collector of internal revenues. During all the time that he was serving in public office he wrote many articles for newspapers and spent much time lecturing.

Perhaps his best poem is "Memory's Banquet." In part, it is as follows:

I am banqueting tonight—  
Not with wassail and with wine,  
Not with eating and with drinking,  
At a bacchanalian shrine;  
For in my lonely chamber  
Where the shadows and the light  
Are quaintly crossed and checkered,  
There I'm banqueting tonight.

In the hush and in the stillness  
 Of the quiet midnight hour,  
 I said to memory, "Bring me  
 The best you have in store;"  
 And the feast was spread before me,  
 And the present took her flight,  
 While the past and I made merry  
 With our banqueting tonight.

And the comfort and the kindness  
 That loving hearts have given,  
 Making life to me the prelude  
 Of the higher joys of heaven;  
 Sat at the board and cheered me,  
 Making life a great delight,  
 As I drank the cup of memory  
 In my banqueting tonight.

#### A SABBATH DAY.

By Will Cumback.

Like a mother's kiss to the weary child,  
 Like the calm sea waves, raging and wild;  
 Like rest, sweet rest, to tired feet;  
 Like joy's sweet dream while sorrows sleep;  
 Like dew upon the drooping flower;  
 Like hope in a despairing hour;  
 Like joyful news from those we love;  
 Like benedictions from above,  
 Comes the Sabbath morn to me.

Smiley Fowler, who is now on the editorial staff of the *Greensburg News*, has written many poems, stories and feature articles for papers, which have been copied in newspapers throughout the country. He collaborated with George Cary Eggleston in the latter's novel, "Jack Shelby," the scene of the story being partly laid in Decatur county. He has published serially a newspaper "Literati of Indiana," in which he reviewed the work of some twenty authors of the state. He now has in preparation a volume entitled "The Quality of Recent American Verse," taking up the period between the death of Whitman and Whittier and the present time. He intends to publish a small collection of his verse within the next few months. Two of his most striking poems are given.

THE SYLVAN FANE.

We walk again beside the sylvan streams,  
And seek anew the love-god's rustic fane  
We built him in the fleeting May-time dreams—  
Beyond the pale of glory and of pain.

I come from far across the world, from land  
Of eternal snows and plains of hellish heat;  
And you from scenes I do not understand—  
Of gild and ease, half bitter and half sweet.

Oh, I am weary with the march of men  
Upon the great white road. My feet are sore,  
And long to walk in shaded lines again,  
Where I may dream of failure nevermore.

My ears are filled with woful monodies  
Of alien muses. Threnodies have drowned  
The joyous primal anthem, such as rise  
To dying ears in only less than sound.

My love, your face is pale! How sweet to rest  
Your eyes on these old stable things!  
Forgetting evermore the ancient jest  
Of tinselled crowns and pomp and puppet kings!

Now once again the leaden mists uplift,  
Revealing hills where reinless fancies rove;  
And o'er the boundary of Time we drift,  
Together to the lyric realm of Love.

A SON OF ADAM.

If I would know myself, it is  
Of ancient Clio I must seek;  
Then let me rest not till I reach  
Her clouded shrine and bid her speak.

A son of Adam, I should lose  
My perfect Eden. I shall wrest  
From him the secret of myself—  
With Eve to aid me in my quest.

I feel somewhat of Plato now  
Within my strange, unconquered soul,  
Still groping toward the light that gleams  
Beyond the portal of my goal.



I am Thomas, who would not believe  
 Until he touched Him with his hand.  
 I am rash, avenging Absalom;  
 And faint-heart spy to th' promised land.

Delilah yet can bind my arms,  
 And win my secret with her smile.  
 Yea, even Rome would I forget  
 To please the sorceress of the Nile.

One of the most prolific versifiers of the county was the late Elmer E. Meredith. Born at Sardinia, December 21, 1864, he graduated at DePauw University in 1887, became a lawyer at Muncie, Indiana, but was soon compelled to forsake his profession and go to Colorado in search of health. He married Carrie Wynn in 1894, but lived only three years afterward, dying at his father's home in Sardinia. He was a young man of much promise and had already made a name for himself in his chosen profession. He wrote a large number of dialect poems for newspapers, and showed a genuine poetic gift. He was a member of the Western Association of Writers. Two of his poems are given.

#### CIDER MAKIN' TIME.

The dear old cider makin' time is a comin' round agin,  
 An' I feel so awful tickled that it seems almost a sin;  
 Fer onct I heard the preacher say, with face twelve inches long,  
 "When little chaps get tickled they's surely sumthin' wrong;"  
 But I can't help bein' happy, when I see the orchard trees  
 Jist a breakin' down with apples, an' I hear the hummin' bees  
 Gittin' just so drunk on cider, that they gether everywhere,  
 That they stagger in their flyin' an' wobble through the air.  
 No matter what the preacher says, it surely is a crime  
 Fer boys to not be tickled in the cider makin' time.

Oh, it's fun to get up airly on the cider makin' day!  
 The air's so stimulin' it drives the blues away,  
 An' makes a feller go about a singin' everywhere  
 With heart so light an' happy that he doesn't think o' care.  
 It's fun to bring the apples, them big' red Northern Spies,  
 That make such jolly dumplin's an' big fat juicy pies,  
 An' the russets an' the pippins, some sweet an' others sour—  
 Oh, I love to set an' smell 'em an' taste 'em by the hour,  
 Then the grindin' of the apples is a mighty pleasant sound,  
 When some other feller's muscles makes the heavy wheel go round.  
 An' the drippin' an' the pourin' of the cider in the tub,  
 When they put the pressure on it, is a purty rub-a-dub.

At last we git the barrel full an' then we have to stop  
 And turn it on its bosom with the bunghole on the top.  
 Then comes the sweetest pleasure that mortal ever saw,  
 Of suckin' hallelujah through the bunghole with a straw.  
 I know you'll all forgive me for borin' you with rhyme,  
 Fer I feel so awful jolly in the cider makin' time.

DEACON JONES'S MELON PATCH.

In the sultry days uv August  
 When the corn begins ter shoot,  
 An' the thrashin' injine's whistle  
 Everywhar begins ter toot,  
 An' the great big yaller apples  
 In the orchard smell so sweet,  
 Then I love to sit a-thinkin'  
 In the great old rustic seat,  
 While I rest frum diggin' taters—  
 Fer the sun is bilin' hot  
 An' my shirt is all a-drippin';  
 Not a single little spot  
 But is wringin' wet an' steamin'—  
 Thar I set an' fall ter dreamin'  
 An' my heart swells up with joy,  
 At the 'membrence of mischief  
 W'en I was a boy.

Thar I love ter set a musin'  
 An' a thinkin' uv the past,  
 While the mem'ries come a oozin'  
 Through my noodle quick an' fast,  
 Then a gentle, sweet sensation  
 Seems ter run through all creation;  
 An' a pleasant kind uv feelin'  
 Over all my senses stealin',  
 Calls up pictures uv my childhood  
 By the little laughin' stream,  
 That meandered through the wildwood  
 Like the shadder uv a dream.

Down thar in the strip of bottom,  
 Runnin' up an' down the crick,  
 Deacon had 'is patch uv melons,  
 An' they growed so tarnel thick  
 That we couldn't walk among 'em  
 Without trampin' on the vines,  
 An' we boys could hardly find a place  
 Ter hide away the rines.  
 No, nothin', sir, could hold a match  
 Ter Deacon Jones's melon patch.

Many things I now remember  
That I loved when but a boy;  
An' I call 'em up before me  
With a sweet and touchin' joy.  
Oh, I loved the dear old orchard  
An' I liked the medder, too,  
An' the pond down in the pastur  
Whar the worter lilies grew;  
But all these things were not a match  
Fer Deacon Jones's melon patch!

The Deacon wus a stingy cuss,  
Always gittin' up a fuss,  
Prosecutin' an' a suin'  
Fer trespassin' an' fer theft,  
An' a threatnin' uv the ruin  
That he'd scatter right an' left;  
An' sometimes he kep' 'is promise  
When he caught us boys by chance  
Stealin' through his bottom ground,  
Then he made a smackin' sound  
With 'is cane upon our pants.  
Though all things else I may forgit  
One mem'ry sure will linger yit  
An' kinder make me scringe an' twitch  
An' make my trousers smart and itch;  
Though all things else may pass away  
I'll feel until my dyin' day  
The lickens that I uster catch  
In Deacon Jones's melon patch!

Now when I think uv them dear joys,  
I almost b'lieve I'm with the boys  
A goin' on another lark  
An' stealin' melons in the dark;  
But no, now sence I come ter think—  
The idee almost makes me shrink—  
Them days wus long, long years ago,  
My har is turnin' like the snow,  
The boys with whom I uster play  
Have long sence died an' passed away,  
An' my time, too, is comin' soon,  
I know my life is past the noon,  
But when my soul shall fly away  
Fer glory on my dyin' day,  
I'll jist look down and try ter catch  
A glimpse of Jones's melon patch.

A number of poems have been submitted, but no data of the authors being obtained the poems are given without any personal mention of the composer.

A RETROSPECT.

By Henry C. Hodges.

When life' bright, pleasant vestibule,  
 With flowers and morning sunshine decked,  
 Is seen through corridors of years  
 Its beauty grows by retrospect.  
 Our school days thus will e'er appear;  
 Outlined within the past they shine,  
 The fairest, sweetest picture there,  
 Its radiant glow, a light divine.

TAKE HEED.

By William T. Zetterberg.

There's one thing in the United States  
 That's an evil from start to finish,  
 It ought to be against men's taste  
 To allow that thing to replenish.  
 Of course there will be some men kick;  
 Not because they are in the right,  
 But because they are on the trick  
 Of selling votes just for the mite.  
 This, you know, is a very great sin,  
 But there is one greater than it,  
 Which causes a great many to go in  
 Where they can't never o'ercome it.  
 The drinking of whisky is this,  
 That makes so many homes go bad;  
 That's the reason the money is amiss  
 For food and things that should be had.  
 Show me the man that drinks liquor  
 Every time he can get the stuff.  
 I will show you where he is lacker  
 In carrying on his big bluff.  
 Is he any better socially  
 While his mind is all out of whack?  
 Is he making a standard, really,  
 In which other people ought to track?



## DECATUR COUNTY, INDIANA.

Say, drinker, would you just like to see  
 Your sister or dear old mother  
 In a saloon drinking their tea  
 And quarreling with one another?

I say this for the habit drinker,  
 He is not thought of the least in the world .  
 By people who do not tinker,  
 This, surely, you have all been told.

Then is there some economy  
 That tends to make the people spend  
 The whole of their past week's money  
 On that which life does not depend?

Is it teaching the boy such habits  
 That will make them good gentlemen?  
 The kind the world should have in it,  
 And be something like chosen men.

Men, are you of the drinking kind,  
 Who think such things should fill the air?  
 Say, people, do you think you'll find  
 Saloons and tigers Over There?

The last of all I have to say  
 Is just go to the polls and cry,  
 "I'm all and all for the right way,  
 So I will cast my vote for 'Dry.'"

## THE OLD HOMESTEAD.

By W. M. Gard.

Oft as I muse there comes to me  
 Visions of that long ago,  
 Across life's changing, shoreless sea  
 Of the friends I used to know.  
 Pure as the breath of flowers that bloom  
 When the chill of winter is o'er;  
 Sweet as fields of clover in June—  
 All those tender memories are.

But those memories never come  
 So fresh and full as when the day  
 Grows hazy, and the winter sun  
 Pursues his solitary way  
 Low down through the lone, southern sky—  
 O'er fields that are buried in snow—  
 And the glad holidays are nigh,  
 And the world with love is all aglow!

Once more I see the rocks and hills,  
 The dear Old Homestead and farm;  
 The dark woodland and the rills  
 And shocks of the gathered corn.  
 I hear the pheasant's drumming call  
 And the "whirr" of the startled quail;  
 There's the old elm tree and the waterfall,  
 And the spring never known to fail!

But those I loved are there no more;  
 Strangers now dwell in their place;  
 I sigh for the happy days of yore  
 And one glimpse of a vanished face!  
 For the simple faith of childhood dear  
 In that quaint, old Santa Claus,  
 With his tiny sleigh, and blithe reindeer  
 Loaded down with gaudy toys!

For other hearts the bells shall ring,  
 For them the violets bloom;  
 And they shall hail the lovely spring,  
 The azure skies of June;  
 But there shall come to me no more  
 Those happy days gone by,  
 Till I shall reach that other shore—  
 My "Homestead" in the sky!

The following little piece of humorous verse was published in the *Indianapolis Sentinel* during the Spanish-American War, and the names of local persons (as history recalls) were analogous to those prominent in the newspaper dispatches at the time. Mr. Stewart was at that time a reporter on a Greensburg paper. For a number of years he has been the Washington correspondent for Eastern papers, occupying a high position.

DENNIS.

By Orville H. Stewart.

(To Master Dennis Donald Webb, son of Merritt Webb, of Adams, Indiana.)

His father called him Dennis;  
 His mother called him Don;  
 But never could the same name  
 His parents agree upon.

When into a boy he grew  
 And he went to school, then  
 Half the scholars called him Don  
 And the others called him Den.

So it was Den and Don,  
 Whether at ball or tennis;  
 But since Merritt whipped the Dons  
 His name now is Dennis.

#### THE GRAPEVINE SWING.

By W. A. Kirkpatrick.

In the silent night, when the witches steal  
 Through my drowsy brain and break the seal  
 Of doors long closed on forgotten things,  
 'Tis my youthful days the dream fay brings.  
 And the memory most dear to me  
 Is a grapevine swing in an elm tree,  
 Where, perched in the vine, by my sweetheart's side,  
 We would sit and swing until the old cat died.

O Father Time, you travel too fast for me;  
 Take me back to my boyhood days so free;  
 Hang up your scythe, forget you're off the track,  
 Turn your hour-glass on the other end and let the sand run back,  
 For I want to close my eyes and see  
 That grapevine swing in the elm tree.

On summer nights, when the wind sang low,  
 And the air was flooded with the moon's pale glow;  
 When the bullfrog bugled his mellow bass  
 From the reeds that grew in the old mill race,  
 Where the limpid water, like a silver sea,  
 Reflected the shadow of the vine and tree—  
 Then I forgot the world held anything  
 But my sweetheart's form in the grapevine swing.

#### GOOD BYE, OLD HOME, GOOD BYE.

By W. A. Kirkpatrick.

Have you forgotten, dear, the time 'most fifty years ago,  
 When to this house we came to stay. I loved you then, you know,  
 And all the years that we have lived beneath its sheltering eaves  
 Have been filled up with blessings that no pain or sorrow leaves.  
 But now the home is sold and we, although our hearts are sore,  
 Will never have the right again to enter that old door;  
 We'll have to bid farewell to all that every night and day  
 A paradise has been to us, but as we go we'll say—

Good bye, old home, good bye, how hard it is to leave.  
 The joys and bliss you gave to us, may others now receive.  
 No matter where our feet may stray, or where our heads may lie,  
 You'll always be for us a shrine,  
 Good bye, old home, good bye.

How well do I remember, dear, the place you used to sit,  
 When in the evening work was done, and you would sew or knit,  
 'Twas in the chimney corner there, beside the mantel tree  
 That held the clock which told the time so long for you and me.  
 But that old clock will never tell for us the passing hours,  
 And your old chair went with it when they sold this home of ours.  
 There's nothing left to keep us here, so we will go away,  
 And as we leave this sacred spot, we'll bow our heads and say—

When you first came to this old home your cheeks were like the rose,  
 Yours eyes were like the violet that in the valley grows.  
 Your face is old and wrinkled now, but looks as young to me,  
 Try as I may, your girlish form is all that I can see;  
 You're worn out with the cares of life, your hair is thin and gray,  
 But love for me looks from your eyes as on our wedding day.  
 If I could bear for you the pain that lines your tear-wet cheek,  
 I'd gladly give my life for you, and say in accents meek—

The flowers in the garden, dear, will miss your tender care,  
 The birds will hunt in vain for crumbs you always scattered there,  
 And out beneath the maple tree upon the little mound,  
 Some other hand will plant, perhaps, a rose when spring comes 'round.  
 So put your hand upon my arm, don't cry, dear heart, don't cry,  
 There must be somewhere in this world a place for you and I,  
 Where we can rest our weary feet, the short time we've to stay,  
 But if we never find that spot our hearts will always say—

#### THE OLD BLACK SHAWL.

By Mrs. Della White Markland.

'Tis not a handsome thing to see,  
 'Tis spoiled, old and brown,  
 Though it was black as night could be  
 When first it came from town.  
 'Twas large and ample in its folds;  
 We bought it in the fall,  
 But then it had not grown to be  
 The old black shawl.

In rain or shine, through heat or cold,  
 In clear or cloudy weather,  
 We've worn it individually  
 And worn it all together.  
 For twenty years 'twas one of us,  
 And served us one and all,  
 Oh, we'll ever have a reverence for  
 The old black shawl.

In winter time when sleighing's good,  
 We've wrapped in furs and cloak,  
 With robe, and rug, and woolen scarf,  
 Until it seemed we'd choke.



We hear a voice behind us,  
'Tis mother's in the hall:  
"I think, my dear, you'd better take  
The old black shawl."

And in the summer, if perchance  
A cloud was in the sky,  
Or summer breezes blowing  
In the wheat or in the rye;  
If one of us were starting out  
We're sure to hear the call,  
"For fear it rains, you'd better take  
The old black shawl."

When we picnicked on the grass,  
'Twas formed into a seat  
Or a pillow for the head,  
Or a carpet for the feet.  
Where'er we went, whate'er we did,  
I think that one and all  
Felt we were not equipped without  
The old black shawl.

If one of us lie down to rest  
Or fell asleep while nursing,  
'Twas over us spread by some kind hand  
Without our thought or choosing.  
When mother's sight was nearly gone,  
And o'er fell the pall,  
To shield from light those eyes, we brought  
The old black shawl.

And when her sight restored again,  
How thankfully, how tender  
We placed it round her feeble form,  
Naught could excel its splendor.  
And later on, when boys and girls  
Were grown and married all,  
Then grandpa put the babies on  
The old black shawl.

And when to boys and girls they'd grown,  
'Twas formed into a saddle  
For Dobbin's back, and to the barn  
They rode on it a-straddle.  
For tent, for playhouse, or for show,  
For masquerade or ball,  
Methinks no usefulness escapes  
The old black shawl.

But now we sadly lay it by,  
 Touch it with reverent fingers,  
 For added to these memories  
 Is one that with us lingers,  
 Of saddest hours, of darkest days,  
 And the Death Angel's call,  
 Since mother's gone we've laid away  
 The old black shawl.

THE OLD WATER MILL.

By Mrs. Della White Markland.

In fancy I view it—the old water mill  
 That stood tall and grand, at the foot of the hill.  
 The glad happy song of the soft rippling stream,  
 Like a lullaby, comes to me now in my dream;  
 The old mill dam, glistening bright in the sun  
 That scattered its gems on the waves as they run.

The big water wheel that we wondering saw,  
 With its splatter, and rush, as we viewed it with awe;  
 The kindly old miller with dust covered o'er,  
 Whose jolly voice came to us through the roar,  
 And rattle and clatter of belt, wheel and stone,  
 When we played on the mill, in the days that are gone.

Up the long stairs was the railroad,  
 That carried the grain from the wagon's load.  
 At the old mill door, on the horse's back,  
 The freckled faced boy, with corn in a sack,  
 That was shelled by hand the night before,  
 By the dear home folks on the kitchen floor.

He bashfully stands and waits around,  
 Or plays in the stream till his grist is ground,  
 And the corn we parched on the office stove,  
 We'll never forget where e'er we rove.  
 Our laughter all through the mill was heard,  
 As the sweet brown corn we stirred and stirred.

Then we hunted for pennies the miller so sly  
 Had dropped just to see the glad light in our eye  
 As onward we scampered, still searching for more,  
 And wondering how ever they got on the floor  
 Then we waded knee deep in the old tail race,  
 Or fished with long poles, and tan on our face.

As we breathlessly watched for a "nibble" and took  
With screams of delight a fish from our hook,  
Then the old spring house, and peppermint fine,  
Where we made long curls of the first dandelion.  
There the birds sang all day, and the soft summer breeze  
Seemed laughing with us, 'neath the wide-spreading trees.

But gone with the past, as new scenes come in view,  
Is the water mill, and joys that we knew,  
With the dear ones that loved us, and lived with us then  
Who will walk this world with us, ah! never again,  
But the sweetest memories of life linger still  
Around happy days in the old water mill.

#### THE TREE, ON THE TOWER.

By Lida M. Cobb.

Beautiful tree upon the tower,  
Though your lot be cast on high,  
Where the town clock tells the hour  
And storms sweep from the sky.

To thee we lift our wondering eyes  
And beholding, proudly say  
Thou art one of nature's wonders  
Within thine own unique sway.

None know how thy roots are nurtured,  
All are guessing and some do say  
Thou art a fake, but every one  
Admires thee when they pass this way.

There is much inquiry about thee  
From all sections of the earth,  
But no one can ever conceive  
From whence came thy lofty birth.

You are surely enthroned in grandeur,  
As your branches wave on high,  
But we know you are only transient  
And must some day droop and die.

With the leaves of the wild wood  
Your bright garment, too, must fade  
And come fluttering down to earth  
To mingle in death's silent shade.

Yet, with pride, we now behold thee  
 And friends and strangers, if they will,  
 May come and view our lone tree  
 Towering on and upward still.

When, like all earth, you have perished,  
 Leaving naught but your good name,  
 Still in history you'll be known  
 As the Greensburg tree of fame.

Some extracts of Lewis A. Harding, the editor of this volume, have been included at the request of the publishers and his many personal friends in the county. They are taken from his volume, "The Call of the Hour," and printed with the permission of the Sunflower Publishing Company, Wichita, Kansas.

THE GREAT FOUNDATION.

Written on the Burning of a Tabernacle.

Hark!  
 The alarm!  
 It is fire!  
 Fire! Fire! Fire!

Look!  
 People run!  
 Hear the bells!  
 Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire!

Oh!  
 See the smoke!  
 Can it be! But alas!  
 The Tabernacle!—The Tabernacle is on fire!

Ah! then men hurry quickly to and fro,  
 And desperate firemen dash in maddened flight  
 And pallid faces like the sullen snow,  
 In terror gaze on that unwonted sight;  
 While every heart is strained with fear, for soon  
 Those clouds of black, then whitening smoke, shall doom  
 It all to direful flames and ashy ruin!

Behold, on yesterday what splendid pile,  
 When sunrise lit the windows of its dome  
 With all the fresh, fine beams of morning; while  
 At evening, all the twilight of the gloam  
 Seemed caught and held up there in those rich panes  
 To linger as the shadows mounted higher,  
 And then in silence when the westland wanes,  
 At last to mount toward heaven from the spire!



But now, behold, what awful pity! Ah—

Those sacred windows and the splendid wall,  
That lofty arch and all the fine eclat,  
Are scorching with the smoky heat; and all  
That splendid dome, with heaven-pointing spire,  
Is wrapt in smoke; and falling windows fly  
To pieces; while above, red tongues of fire  
Leap wildly upward toward the darkened sky!

The scene is awful now! Those sheets of flame  
Envelope roof and dome and spire, while clouds  
Of smoke ascend.—Oh, what could drown or tame  
Those deadly flames that rage beneath the shrouds  
Of bursting smoke! Behold! that splendid tower,  
Like some great martyr's sacred head, is bent  
Amid the withering flames; and all the power  
Of that strong crest, now lost in dire destruction!

A few hours do their work. And after all  
That fearful spectacle of fire and smoke,  
The only grandeur is the blackened wall;  
The faithful clock has stopped upon the stroke  
Of time for service. All the power and worth  
Of art seem but an ashy heap ere long;  
But planted deeply in the solid earth  
The great foundation still stands firm and strong.

O faithful man, renew that house of light  
Whose walls are built upon the solid rock;  
Uprear its columns to their ancient height;  
Secure its altar from the tempest's shock;  
Its beams and rafters anchor sure and strong,  
Restore its grandeur to the olden state.  
And let the cadence of its sacred song  
Ascend high up to heaven's holy gate!

Methinks I see that temple all renewed,  
And throngs have entered through the open door,  
And all its sacred windows seem imbued  
With holy light, that brightens more and more!  
And then I see a wanderer come apart,  
And leave the world with all its gloom and night,  
Some holy book against his faithful heart,  
His face turned upward toward the higher Light!

A CHILD'S SOLILOQUY.

I wonder who it is that knows just who or where old Santa is; and after Christmas where he goes with those reindeer of his. If I could see an Esquimau who lives up North where it is cold, I surely think that he would know, for Santa lives up there I'm told.

He doesn't make a bit of stir, but always comes when I'm in bed; my mamma says he's dressed in fur, and papa says his nose is red. I thought I heard him at our door, or coming down our kitchen flue; and mamma saw him at the store,—I wonder who he is, don't you? If I'd sit up I might find out, but papa talks so much of him, and mamma's seen him too, no doubt, and so I think I'll just ask them.

But all of the efforts of Decatur county writers have not been directed toward poetic composition. Some have turned to prose and their product has attained more than a local circulation. One of the most notable prose works produced in the county is a volume on "The Reproach of Capital Punishment," by Hamilton Mercer, the editor of the *Greensburg Democrat*. This was issued first in 1914 and received very favorable comment from newspapers and magazines generally. This volume is a very effective weapon against all the arguments advanced in favor of capital punishment. Mr. Mercer has made a careful study of his subject, and his wide experience as an editor has enabled him to see the subject from every side.

Mr. Mercer begins his book by the discussion of the subject of vested authority, and from the very first sentence to the close he shows that he is a logician. He maintains that "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and proceeds to show that if magistrates put men to death they are doing no better than an individual who murders." This is true because the power of the magistrates comes from the individual. In this first chapter Mr. Mercer shows his familiarity with Blackstone and other authorities in jurisprudence.

In the discussion of "Moses and the Death Penalty," the author shows his splendid knowledge of the Bible. He proves that that law requiring death penalty originated when the recognized rule was "blood for blood." But if this be now carried out, "man is nearly two thousand years behind his Creator, who permitted the last blood offering to his name to be sacrificed on Calvary." If we hold the old Jewish law concerning the death penalty for murder, then we must hold it for the other crimes that were punishable by death under the law of Moses.

Mr. Mercer shows very clearly that capital punishment is administered not for the reform of the criminal, or would-be criminals, but out of the

spirit of vengeance. This, of course, is contrary to the teachings of the Scripture which gives the requiring of vengeance to the Lord.

This volume is concluded by some vital statistics showing that capital punishment does not reduce crime.

Other writers of prose include Will Cumback, Lewis A. Harding, Smiley Fowler, Orville Thomson and the various newspaper men of the county, all of whom have written some excellent articles on a wide variety of subjects. The *Standard* in 1910 had a resume of interesting historical facts gleaned from the early files of that paper. The *News* has a special correspondent, Noah Rogers, who has written many local historical articles for his paper. The *Democrat* and *Review* have also had special historical articles from time to time. Lewis A. Harding has issued one volume, "The Call of the Hour," which has elicited much favorable comment. The volume contains a variety of prose and poetry and shows the author in his best mood. Favorable reviews have been made of this work by such critics as the *Indianapolis News*, the *Kansas City Gazette Globe*, the *Pittsburg Gazette*, the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, the *Topeka Daily Capital*, the *Boston Globe*, *Portland Oregonian*, etc. Another work of Mr. Harding's is entitled "The Preliminary Diplomacy of the Spanish-American War," with an introduction by Dr. Amos S. Heiskey, instructor in political science and international law in Indiana University. In 1915 was published Mr. Harding's "A Few Spoken Words," with an introduction by Prof. John M. Clapp, head of the department of English of Lake Forest College. He has written many articles for newspapers and magazines. The late Orville Thomson published a history of the Seventh Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, setting up the type and doing his own press work. This is remarkable in view of the fact that he was more than eighty years of age at the time. Smiley Fowler is a versatile writer, turning his hand with equal facility to either prose or poetry. Some of his short articles have been widely copied in the newspapers of the country. The addresses and lectures of the late Will Cumback have been gathered in a volume and have found a place in many of the best libraries of the nation.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### DECATUR COUNTY INDUSTRIES, PAST AND PRESENT.

During pioneer days in the Middle West, when transportation facilities were limited and communities were more dependent upon their own resources, industrial enterprises of a county often outnumbered those of the present, since steam and electricity have been harnessed to bring in commodities from every quarter of the globe. Small mills and shops sprung up apace. There was grain to be ground, saddles and harness to be made, cloth to be manufactured and brick to be burned. Civilization had supplanted the Indian, and the never-ceasing wheels of industry had received their impetus.

In 1823 John House built the first saw-mill and water grist-mill just back of where South Park cemetery is located. House, besides operating these mills, earned a little extra money by gunsmithing and blacksmithing. His son, Isaac, operated the mill for about twenty-five years. The miller in this case took one-eighth of the grain for grinding it. This mill ground mostly corn, but some wheat was raised by the early settlers and taken there to be made into flour.

William Ross built the first horse grist-mill in the same year, one-half mile north of McCoy's. In 1832 Elijah Mitchell built the first oil-mill. It was located one mile west of Greensburg. The following year he built the first steam saw- and grist-mill, on the lot just east of the Garland mills.

The first water-power saw-mill was started by John Forsythe, two miles east of Greensburg, in 1824. Another industry in the same neighborhood was that operated by John Layton, who made flax brakes, plow woods, ox yokes and other articles. Layton also made rope and twine from the fiber of a variety of nettles which was very common at that time.

The first water-mill in Sand Creek township was owned by Elijah Davis and the first horse-mill, by William Robbins. Robbins built one of the first water-mills located in Slabtown, six miles east of Greensburg. This mill, which is called Layton's mill, is still running, but steam is now used to operate it.



In 1836 or 1837 Edward Warthin introduced the first steam engine in Clay township. It was used to run a mill on Clifty creek, below Milford, and is supposed to have been the first steam-mill with a bolting apparatus in the county. However, the first millers of the township were the Critzers, who owned several mills on Clifty creek, one of which is still in use a few miles south of Milford. One of their later competitors was William W. Burton, who operated a horse-mill in the same neighborhood.

The first mill in Marion township was owned by a man named Brush and was located on Sand creek. William Evans owned the first horse-mill in Jackson township. The first grist-mill in Clinton township was built by John and William Hamilton, two brothers, who had emigrated from Virginia in 1822. This mill was placed on Clifty creek. All traces of it disappeared years ago.

Some time later, William Buchanan built a corn cracker for Thomas Lanham, which stood on the south fork of Clifty creek. About the same time, the first saw-mill in the neighborhood was built by a man named Douglass, who was later killed in its machinery.

At an early day, the Hamilton brothers changed one of their grist-mills into a bark-mill and used it to pulverize slippery elm, dogwood and sassafras bark for shipment to Eastern markets. One of the first grist-mills, carding machines and distilleries, combined, in Fugit township was operated by William Henderson, who lived near what is now Springhill. Another mill was operated near Kingston by a man named Smith.

The first tanyard in Fugit township was built by Lewis Lacker on the farm now owned by Everett Hamilton. In 1841 H. C. Cowles, of Milford, was manufacturing fanning mills for cleaning wheat, rye and oats. These fans were capable of clearing three or four hundred bushels of grain in a day.

Anthony Degant purchased the tanyard owned by Benjamin Martin, two miles from Millhousen, near the Ripley county line, in 1847. He had learned the trade in Germany and operated the establishment on a toll basis, taking a certain per cent of hides tanned for his pay.

Blacksmiths, in the early days, manufactured all plows and other farm implements used. The smiths made plows during the winter, when business was not very brisk, and sold them in the spring when farming activities started. There were two shops in Greensburg which were well known about the county. One was owned by Squires & Johnson and the other by John Roszell.

One of the very early industries of Greensburg was a hat factory,

which was located on East Washington street. This establishment was doing business as far back as 1825. In addition, there were, of course, the usual number of shoemakers, chairmakers and other workers in wood.

A man from Cincinnati started an oil-mill, for the extraction of oil from flax seed, in 1840. Just a year or two later a Scotchman named Craig began the manufacture of coverlids on the site of the First Methodist church. James Connor started a wagon and buggy shop in 1850 on West Main street and managed it very successfully for a number of years. Seven years later a chair factory was located on the west side of the public square. Ezra Conner, in 1860, began the manufacture of wagons of excellent design which had a wide demand. He sold them for one hundred and twenty-five dollars each. They were, of course, hand-made throughout.

#### EARLY WOOLEN MILLS.

Decatur county pioneers were very industrious people. While the men were clearing the forest and planting the crops, their wives and daughters found plenty to do in spinning, carding, fulling, dyeing and weaving the wool from the flock of sheep which each householder possessed. These processes were the only means by which the early settlers could obtain cloth, unless they had money with which to purchase it from some trader. After a time, small shops were set up and people pursued this sort of work as a trade, and gradually home spinning was abandoned.

For a number of years, these industries flourished, and then larger establishments drove the smaller concerns out of existence. So completely has the industry been wiped out, that it is now a rare thing to see a carding machine or even a spinning wheel in Decatur county.

John Thompson had a mill for carding wool one-half mile northwest of Greensburg, in 1844. Others who operated woolen mills at Greensburg were Peyton H. Barkley and John T. Hamilton. Hamilton had a shop where he carded wool, flax, linen and linsey. He also has a saddlery and harness shop.

In 1844 Michael Gilman started a shop for carding, fulling and dyeing on the mouth of Mill creek, near St. Omer. He had two sets of carding machines and the other necessary equipment. His terms were plain wool, five cents a pound and mixed wool, seven and one-half cents a pound. He took wheat and other farm products in payment.

Among the older woolen mills, was one at St. Paul, which was operated by John D. Paul in connection with his saw-mill. The mill was pur-

chased, upon Paul's death in 1867, by Erastus Floyd, who had been in partnership with him for a number of years. They were also jointly interested in a flour-mill at that place.

Their woolen mill was equipped to handle the finest Merino and Saxony wool. They kept in stock a large amount of satinets, blankets, cassimeres, full cloths, jeans and yarns to be exchanged for wool. They charged three dollars and a half a pair for making blankets, sixty cents a yard for cloth and thirty-five cents a yard for white flannel. The mill burned in 1877.

In 1845 William Shaner and Samuel Snyder rented the machinery owned by Michael Gilman, and commenced the manufacture of guaranteed products. They stood responsible for all cloth they made, providing the wool they received was first class. They had fixed cash prices, or, in case the customer desired, took one-seventh of the wool in exchange for their preparation of the remainder.

The silk industry was once started in Decatur county, but never resulted in anything permanent. In 1842 W. B. Cobb cultivated four thousand mulberry trees for sale, to be used in cultivation of silk. He sold them at twenty dollars a thousand, which made them good investments for shade purposes, if nothing else.

Millhousen also boasted of a woolen mill, which was destroyed by fire on May 30, 1874. This mill had been very active in its output, but competition had begun to tell on its business and, although the loss at that time was estimated at twenty thousand dollars, this was only about one-third of its actual cost.

In 1852 Gageby and Siling ventured on the experiment of making furniture by machinery propelled by steam. This was the first real manufacturing venture with modern-day equipment in Greensburg. In five years this enterprise had increased and was employing fifteen men, with an annual output of twenty thousand dollars. One of their orders at that time was for the fixtures in the Shelby county court house. Their building was a five-story structure and fifty by seventy-five feet. It was operated until the latter part of the eighties, when it was destroyed by fire and never replaced.

In perusing the files of the *Standard* for 1874, it is found that the main industries which are listed and commented on in that paper are the marble works of J. & J. Pool and the carriage works of Hazelrigg, Pool & Company. The history of these two manufactories are written up in full, but whether these were all that Greensburg boasted of at this time or whether these were the only ones which made it worth the editor's while to visit and comment on, is not for us to say.

## GREELEY LIMESTONE COMPANY, AT ST. PAUL.

Limestone quarries of the Greeley Stone Company at St. Paul are the most extensive in the county that are operated by local capital. Operations of the plant cover a space of sixteen acres, three and one-half of which have already been excavated to a depth of thirty feet. It is planned to carry the work to a point fourteen feet lower before the end of the year.

The company owns a modern plant, built in 1908. It was a powerful crusher, the largest known, capable of handling seven and one-half tons of fifteen-inch stone at a time. The mill will produce fifteen carloads of crushed stone a day.

Power is supplied by a one hundred and fifty-horse-power engine, driven by steam from a two hundred and fifty-horse-power boiler. Drills are steam driven and the engine pulls cars from the quarry, by means of an endless chain, to the crusher.

A valuable by-product of the plant is pulverized limestone, which makes a valuable fertilizer and is readily sold to farmers wishing to correct the acidity of their soil. About a carload of this limestone dust is produced each day the plant is operated. Chemical analysis shows that this dust is ninety-four per cent. calcium carbide and magnesium.

Twenty-five men are regularly employed at the plant, which is situated in a picturesque location upon the banks of Flat Rock. Cincinnati and a number of Indiana cities are regular customers of the company, taking about one thousand two hundred carloads of crushed stone a year for street construction and repair.

The company is capitalized for fifteen thousand dollars. Its officers are R. E. Greeley, president and general manager; Albert Greeley, vice-president, and Clarence Greeley, secretary and treasurer. Albert Greeley is the father of the other two members of the company and is a prominent lumber man of Muncie, Indiana.

## CONTRACTORS.

The most extensive constructive business in the county is that of the firm of Pulse & Porter, Greensburg, general contractors. In December, 1887, Alex Porter and Will Pulse formed a partnership and bought the planing-mill and lumber yard on West Main street that had been operated by Edward and Charles A. Porter. At the same time they started in the general contracting business. Their first ventures were successful and they enlarged their field of operations. Since the firm was organized it has had



a hand in the construction of some of the largest and best known institutions and plants in the state of Indiana.

Two of the first contracts taken by this firm were for the construction of Science hall and the Hendricks library at Hanover College. The next was Science hall, at Indiana University, a one-hundred-thousand-dollar contract. This firm later secured the contract and erected the buildings for the Southeastern Hospital at Madison, a contract amounting to more than a million and a half of dollars.

Other well-known buildings which have been built by Pulse & Porter are the Gentry hotel, Bloomington, \$35,000; the Union Traction Company's power house at Anderson, \$200,000; the Maxwell-Briscoe plant, New Castle, \$225,000; Odd Fellows Home, Greensburg, \$100,000, and the factory of the Bromwell Brush and Wire Company, Greensburg, \$30,000.

The sanitary sewer system of Greensburg was laid by this firm. It is nineteen miles in length and cost the city thirty thousand dollars. Since completing this contract it has built power houses at Winona and New Castle, erected the Odd Fellows' hall at Greensburg and the Greensburg and Osgood school buildings, both of which are considered models of their kind. At various times the firm has given employment to more than five hundred men.

All kinds of mill work is done at the planing-mill in West Main street. Wood is sawed out for interior finishing, sash and doors and every conceivable purpose. The first contract ever taken by this firm was the erection of the Greensburg Baptist church in 1888. The building is still used as a church.

#### MEEK ICE COMPANY.

The first artificial ice plant in Greensburg was established by John E. Robbins, on West Railroad street. He conducted the plant for several years and then disposed of it to the Meek Ice Company in 1912. The plant has a daily capacity of forty tons and employs twelve men in the factory and on the delivery wagons. They not only supply the city of Greensburg, but have built up a large trade with the smaller towns of the county as well. The delivery outside of the city is done with an automobile truck.

#### BROMWELL BRUSH AND WIRE WORKS.

The Bromwell Brush and Wire Works of Greensburg was established in 1903 as a branch of the Cincinnati firm of the same name. The company is incorporated under the laws of Ohio. In the branch at Greensburg only

wire cloth for window screens is manufactured. During the year 1914 sixteen million square feet of screening was made in the local factory. The seventy employees of the plant are paid a total of three thousand dollars a month. The local manager is E. M. Beck.

THE GARLAND MILLING COMPANY.

Foreign as well as domestic demand is supplied by the Garland Milling Company, whose flour-mill ranks eighth in capacity among Indiana mills. This company sells all over the Southeast and through the New England states and has a growing market in the British isles, Norway and Holland.

The company was organized and incorporated in 1898 by R. P. Moore, of Princeton, Indiana. Its original capital stock was thirty thousand dollars. An old mill built by John Emmert in 1869 was purchased and business was started on a modest scale. Since then the plant has been greatly enlarged. It now has an elevator, with a capacity of one hundred thousand bushels, a cooper shop, which turns out thirty thousand barrels a year, and a flour-mill with a daily capacity of one hundred and fifty barrels.

Twenty-five men are employed in the mill and five in the cooper shop. The mill is equipped with the best of modern machinery and its product has found favor wherever it has come into use. In 1909, in order to care for increased business, the company was reorganized and the capital stock increased to fifty thousand dollars. The present officers of the company are: John F. Russell, president; G. D. Ayres, vice-president, and George P. Shoemaker, secretary-treasurer.

Wheat is purchased in the open market and is brought to Greensburg from all parts of the county. On account of the excellent shipping facilities, distribution is readily secured, and the flour can be shipped to the eastern seaboard by three different routes.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

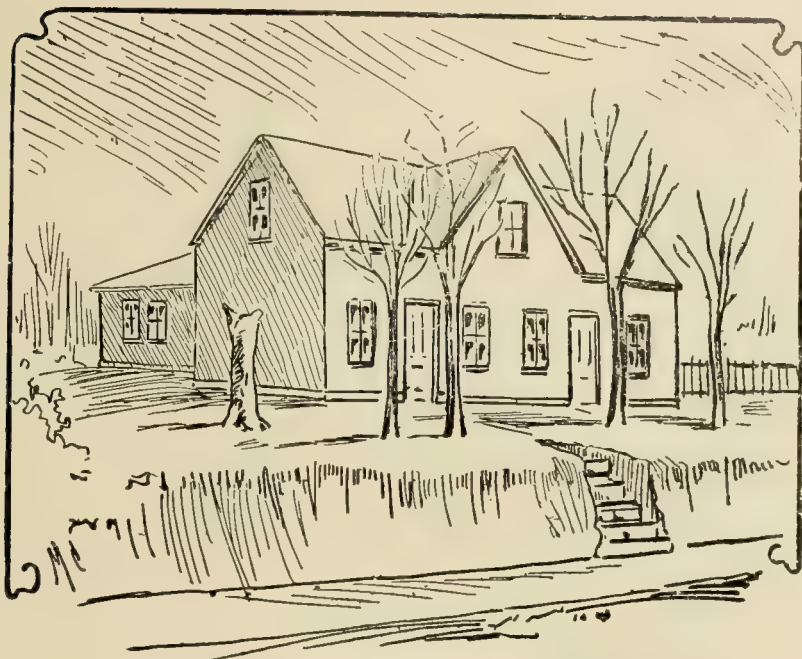
### SIDELIGHTS ON DECATUR COUNTY HISTORY.

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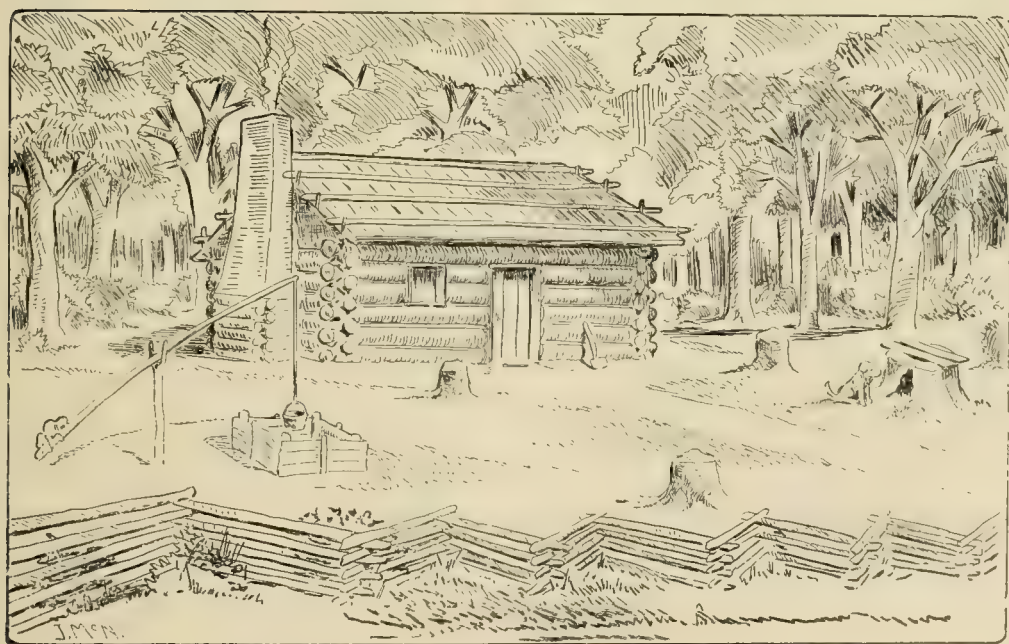
#### DECATUR COUNTY THE SCENE OF "THE HOOSIER SCHOOLMASTER."

There have been several stories and novels written whose scenes are laid in Indiana, but it is safe to say that no one novel of Indiana life has created such a universal interest as "The Hoosier Schoolmaster," published by Edward Eggleston in 1871. There has been much controversy as to where the scene of the novel was laid, and every county in Indiana through which flows a cliffy creek has persisted in claiming to be the scene of the novel. Before his death in 1902, Mr. Eggleston was questioned concerning the location of the plot and he replied without hesitation that Decatur county furnished the background and that the territory immediately surrounding Clifty in Clay township was the one and only place where the scene could have been laid. Moreover, several characters in the novel were taken from well-known people who lived in or near Clifty.

It should be mentioned that Eggleston came with his widowed mother to live in Clifty, Decatur county, when he was nine years old. Born at Vevay, Indiana, December 10, 1839, he had lived there until his father's death and had then gone with his mother to Decatur county, where she had several relatives, among them the Lowrey, Craig and Welsh families. Two years later (1850) Mrs. Eggleston became the wife of Rev. Williamson Terrell, a noted Methodist minister of southern Indiana. In this community in Clay township, Decatur county, young Eggleston grew to manhood, and in the same township he taught his first term of school. The location of this school house is still pointed out to tourists who make annual pilgrimages to this county to visit the scene of the "Hoosier Schoolmaster." Eggleston learned to intimately know the people whom he later incorporated in his novel and there can be no question of the identity of many of his characters with persons who actually lived in Clay township in the middle of the last century. This section was then populated with an uncouth, uncultured and, in many cases, a lawless band of people. Bands of robbers and highwaymen were known to exist in this part of the county and it is



EDWARD EGGLESTON HOME AT MILFORD.



PASCHAL T. LAMBERT CABIN, BUILT IN 1832.





an actual robbery, noted in the records of Decatur county, which furnished Eggleston with the background of his story.

The framework of the "Hoosier Schoolmaster" was taken from a robbery committed on Caleb Stark, who figures in the novel as "Jack Means," and on another man, a German, who in real life was John Dronberger. In the novel the Dutchman appears as "Schroeder." However, in order to bring both robberies into the novel in the form of one, the author combined the incidents of both robberies into a robbery committed on the Dutchman, Schroeder. The brains of the trio of robbers was Dr. Henry B. Smalley, a physician, who appears in the novel as Doctor Small. His compatriots in crime were Walter Johnson, a student in his office, who is the "Greenwood Harrison" of the novel, and David Ricketts, the "Pete Jones" of the story. Doctor Smalley lived about two miles south of Adams on Caleb Stark's farm in a house which stood near the present residence of Oliver Deem, while Caleb Stark lived opposite him across the road.

Stark, "Jack Means," who appears so prominently in the story, was no less prominent in the early history of Decatur county, as a successful farmer, than as a strong supporter of schools. He was one of the three men who supervised the erection of the present court house and to this day may be seen the name "Caleb Stark" carved on a stone slab above the west entrance of the court house. He owned a large farm on which he had several tenants. His wife, Anna Boone, was a cousin of the famous old frontiersman, Daniel Boone. One of his sons, Willet Stark, later flattered himself that he was "Bud Means," but Eggleston wrote at one time that Bud Means never existed in any one person, but that his traits were taken from several of the young men whom he knew around Clifty.

The actual incidents of the real robbery in Clay township were as follow: Doctor Smalley in some way had learned that Stark had a large sum of money concealed in his house. Accordingly he laid plans whereby he hoped to rob the honest old farmer of some of his hard-earned possessions. With this idea in view, the crafty doctor went to Stark to borrow a bunch of keys, one of which, so he told Stark, would open his (Smalley's) trunk, the key to which he pretended he had lost. Up to this time Smalley had borne an unblemished reputation and there was no one who thought he had any connection with the band of robbers who had been operating in the vicinity. Smalley secured the keys from Stark without any difficulty, returned them in a short time, but while he had them in his possession he took an impression of one which unlocked a certain door of Stark's house. With a key made from this impression, Smalley was now able to

gain entrance to Stark's house and at once planned to execute the robbery. He and his two partners in crime, Harrison ("Johnson") and Ricketts ("Pete Jones") decided upon the night when the robbery should take place. On the appointed night Harrison held the horses a short distance from the house and Smalley remained in the yard, while Ricketts went into the house and got the money without disturbing anyone in the family. Once on the outside the men had no difficulty in getting away and at once left the community. The robbery was discovered the next day and Col. Merritt C. Welsh, the constable and the keeper of a store in Clifty, was sent in search of the robbers. By shrewd detective work he tracked the robbers over several states and, after about three months, he captured them. However, in his search for evidence against the men, Colonel Welsh broke into a trunk belonging to Smalley and Harrison without the proper warrant. Smalley immediately filed suit against him in the Bartholomew circuit court and the Colonel was fined one cent, while the costs were thrown on the plaintiff. The doctor and Ricketts were let out on bail until the trial could be held before a justice of the peace in Milford.

Before the case came to trial, however, Harrison confessed and turned state's evidence against his fellow conspirators. Harrison was kept under guard at Stark's house pending the trial and during this time was allowed to go around the farm under guard. He slept in a room in an upper story and it seems that this part of the house was the only part that had an upper story. The rest of the house, one story high, consisted of two wings extending out on either side from this central portion, which stood like a turret above the rest of the building. A day or two before the trial Harrison jumped out one night and made his way along the roof to the edge of the building and thus escaped. He left the county that night and no one in the county has ever heard of him since that night.

The case came to trial at Milford on the appointed day, but there was not sufficient evidence given to convict the robbers, and the case was dismissed. Smalley then filed suit against Stark for false imprisonment, but nothing could be proved, so the case was dropped.

Apropos of this case, the following document, taken from the Decatur county records, is very interesting:

"In vacation: State of Indiana,

"Decatur County.

"We, Henry Smalley, Reuben R. Cobb, James Morgan, Payton H. Barclay and Robert Smith, owe the state of Indiana two thousand dollars

to be levied on our property. The condition of the above bond is that the said Henry B. Smalley shall personally be before the Decatur circuit court on the first day of next term, there to answer to a charge of receiving and concealing stolen property, and abide the order of the court, and not to depart thence without leave. Then this recognizance to be void; else to remain in full force.

"HENRY B. SMALLEY.

"REUBEN R. COBB.

"JAMES MORGAN.

"PEYTON H. BARCLAY.

"ROBERT SMITH.

"Taken and approved before me this 29th day of August, 1853.

"JOHN IMLAY, Sheriff."

In the records of the circuit court at Greensburg is found a similar bond for Greenwood Harrison, filed August 30, 1853, signed by Greenwood Harrison, M. C. Welsh, William Armington, Willet H. Stark, Elijah Markland, John Dronberger, J. Q. A. Garrison, Thomas Harwood, James Cory and Robert Smith.

Enough has been said to settle forever the question as to the location of the scene of the "Hoosier Schoolmaster." Many places in the story can be found from the descriptions given by the author and old residents of the little village of Clifty (Milford) point out with pardonable pride where Eggleston lived in the town. The novel created a distinct impression when it came out in the fall of 1871 and to this day it finds a ready sale among the reading public. It has been translated into French, German and Danish and received with popular favor in all those countries. Clifty enjoys the unique distinction of being the only village of Indiana whose beauties and early incidents may be read in four languages. Eggleston has immortalized a period in Indiana life and given it such a flavor that the lives of the people of that period, their manners and customs, will be preserved for all generations to come.

#### DECATUR COUNTY TAX PAYERS IN 1862.

It will be interesting to the people of Decatur county in 1915 to note the list of taxpayers of 1862, who paid more than one hundred dollars in taxes. The complete list follows:

Greensburg—David Lovett, \$356.36; Judge Davidson, \$305.00; Greensburg Bank, \$268.52; J. S. Scobey, \$232.39; D. and J. Stewart,



\$189.05; Ezra Lathrop, \$185.43; A. R. Forsythe, \$178.70; J. P. Hittle, \$157.85; G. Woodfill, \$155.81; E. and L. P. Lathrop, \$132.50; H. H. Talbott, \$150.79; Smith & McDougle, \$146.40; W. S. Woodfill, \$127.49.

Washington Township—George W. Sidener, \$286.72; R. M. Hamilton, \$264.87; J. E. Hamilton, \$238.15; Nath Patton, \$220.84; J. B. Foley, \$209.45; J. E. Robbins, \$209.31; T. M. White, \$205.91; Adam R. Meek, \$191.26; T. M. Hamilton, \$177.64; M. D. Ross, \$170.92; R. A. Hamilton, \$170.16.

Fugit Township—Luther A. Donnell, \$205.50; Samuel A. Donnell, \$176.40; John Kincaid, \$142.81; John C. Donnell, \$131.39; Thomas Meek, \$124.95; John Carroll, \$124.50.

Clinton Township—William Sefton, \$292.68; George McLaughlin, \$239.85; Warder Hamilton, \$216.75; Jacob Sandusky, \$191.48; T. G. Hamilton, \$156.16; John Meek, \$143.25; Nathan Swails, \$135.54.

Adams Township—Manly Kimble, \$183.26; Joseph D. Pleak, \$166.84; W. J. Robinson, \$131.92; Charles Miller, \$131.82; Hiram Jewett, \$128.52; David Jewett, \$126.78.

Clay Township—Richard Williams, \$182.31; J. J. Pavey, \$172.90; Walter Braden, \$154.99; Caleb Stark, \$123.95; Thomas C. Miers, \$123.23; S. M. Edward, \$122.76.

Jackson Township—R. and D. Gibson, \$117.10.

Sand Creek Township—Robert Armstrong, \$130.33.

Marion Township—Charles Hazelrigg, \$151.61; B. Hardebeck, \$100.20.

#### POPULATION STATISTICS OF DECATUR COUNTY.

	1910	1900	1890
Adams township -----	1,851	1,867	1,942
Clay township, including Milford town-----	1,508	1,503	1,681
Milford town -----	169	211	231
Clinton township -----	641	641	699
Fugit township -----	1,328	1,538	1,605
Jackson township, including Forest Hill town--	1,369	1,477	1,562
Forest Hill town -----	111	152	124
Marion township, including Millhousen town	1,670	1,794	2,030
Millhousen town -----	211	265	224
Salt Creek township, including Newpoint town	1,228	1,532	1,733
Newpoint town -----	341	451	-----

Sand Creek township, including Westport town	2,370	2,562	2,499
Westport town -----	675	614	452
Washington township, including Greensburg			
city -----	6,828	6,604	5,518
Greensburg city -----	5,420	5,034	3,596
Total-----	18,793	19,518	19,277

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT IN DECATUR COUNTY.

A perusal of newspaper and contemporary documents discloses the fact that the temperance question has been before the county from almost the date of its organization. It is to be remembered that our American pioneers counted whiskey as one of the necessities of life and such orders here given from the commissioners' records were of daily occurrence and caused no comment: "May term, 1823. Ordered by the board that the county agent give Thomas Hendricks a credit for the sum of two dollars being a part of an order made him for thirty dollars, forty and a fourth cents for his services in surveying the town of Greensburgh and for Whiskey furnished the Agent on the day of the sale of lots. \* \* \* Received of Samuel Huston, Agent for the county of Decatur, ninety-three and three-fourths cents for one gallon and a half of whiskey got for the use of said county, August 14, 1823. Sam T. Cross \* \* \* Silas Stewart, Agent Decatur county, Cr.: To amount paid for crying off the carpenter work of the court house, 35 cents; for whiskey 37½ cents."

Probably the first of the temperance advocates of the county was Levi Wooden, who, according to well-authenticated traditions, was the first in Clay township, and perhaps the county, to refuse to serve whiskey at a log rolling.

The early nation-wide temperance agitation, known as the Washingtonian movement, hit Decatur county in 1840 and, from the point of view of numbers, was undoubtedly the strongest of the early temperance societies. More than two hundred men joined this society and took the pledge of total abstinence, but, five years later, less than half a dozen had held fast to the oath and the organization died in Greensburg. The Washingtonians had organizations in other parts of the county also and the society at St. Omer continued for many years. This society held a large rally in 1845, at which Joseph Robinson, Thomas Hendricks, I. T. Gibson, the Rev. J. Presley, W. F. Ferguson and J. Cable, made stirring addresses on the evils of strong

drink. The climax of the Washingtonian agitation was reached when the county board of commissioners, on December 4, 1843, as a result of the numerous petitions, refused to grant any liquor licenses for a period of five years.

Decatur county first voted on the liquor question in 1847. At that time the license fee was one hundred dollars and was known as a grocery license fee. The "wets" won in six townships, Washington and Fugit townships voting dry. The vote was as follows:

	Wet.	Dry.
Washington township -----	154	304
Fugit township -----	72	153
Clinton township -----	71	36
Adams township -----	175	59
Clay township -----	140	94
Jackson township -----	35	16
Sandcreek township -----	101	33
Marion township -----	87	33
Total -----	835	868

About this same time the township in which Columbus, Indiana, is located voted "wet" by a majority of twenty-six, while the majority at Brookville, Indiana, was thirty-six. The relative standing of the "wets" and "drys" did not change at Greensburg during the next sixty years.

In 1858, Carrie D. Filkins, a well-known temperance lecturer of the day, spoke in Greensburg on the evils of the liquor traffic. She advocated, among other things, that the sale of intoxicants be placed exclusively in the hands of women and that a law be passed making it illegal to sell alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes. As a result of her visit, the Ark of Safety was organized. The *Greensburg Standard* of the following week commenting upon the situation says, "There are at the present time no less than ten whiskey shops in the moral, as some folks term it, town of Greensburg. In the southern part of town, known as Ireland, we are told that almost every house has within its walls a barrel of whiskey. What is our beautiful village coming to?"

The temperance wave again struck Greensburg in June, 1877, when a number of meetings were held in Alumni hall. The Red Ribbon Club was organized and gave a social in the city hall. On June 15, several inveterate drinkers signed the pledge and organized a "Dare-to-do-Right" club.

FIRST LOCAL OPTION ELECTION IN DECATUR COUNTY.

The first local option election in Decatur county was held on January 26, 1909, and resulted in a "dry" majority of 1,679. As will be seen from the appended table, eight of the nine townships voted to abolish the saloon, Marion township alone returning a "wet" majority of 63. There is no way to tell exactly how the city of Greensburg voted, as its vote was included in Washington township, but it was estimated at the time that there were four hundred votes outside the city. It is fair to presume that the country vote was not materially different from the city vote and on this basis the city vote was 1,035 for the "drys" and 513 for the "wets." The entire county, except a small strip in the southeastern part, voted by more than two to one to eliminate the saloon. The vote by townships was as follows:

	Dry.	Wet.	Maj.
Washington -----	1,237	611	626
Fugit -----	239	105	134
Clinton -----	106	33	73
Adams -----	339	150	189
Clay -----	274	103	171
Jackson -----	259	88	171
Sand Creek -----	480	115	365
Salt Creek -----	160	148	13
Marion -----	178	241	---
Totals -----	3,273	1,594	1,741

The city of Greensburg voted "wet" by 137 majority in 1911 and three years later voted "dry" by a majority of 80. Millhousen and Newpoint are the only towns in the county now (1915) having saloons. There are two saloons in St. Paul on the Shelby county side of the town.

THE WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

The Greensburg Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized on December 9, 1883, by Mrs. M. L. Wells, of Greencastle, who was at that time president of the state organization. Mrs. Dr. Johnson was chosen president of the local group, with Mrs. L. S. Meal as corresponding secretary, Mrs. Anna Thomson as recording secretary and Mrs. Charles Kemble as treasurer. Mrs. Thomson resigned as recording secretary and Mrs. Larrie Lathrop was



elected. Vice-presidents were appointed from the following churches: Mrs. Louise M. Thomson, from the Presbyterian; Mrs. Johnston, from the Baptist; Miss Sprecker, from the Centenary Methodist Episcopal; Mrs. Birdsell, from the Christian; Mrs. Dr. Bracken, from the First Methodist Episcopal, and Mrs. Thurman, from the African Methodist Episcopal.

The first meeting was held in the First Methodist church on December 12, 1883, with twelve members present. At this time all the meetings were held in the various churches. At this first meeting, following devotional exercises—which, as always afterward, came first on the program—it was proposed to take up some of the different departments of work and, later, superintendents were appointed. Mrs. Charles Kemble and Mrs. Ben Swem were appointed superintendents of jail and prison work and Mrs. Louise M. Thomson was made evangelistic and gospel superintendent. Other departments were added at various intervals.

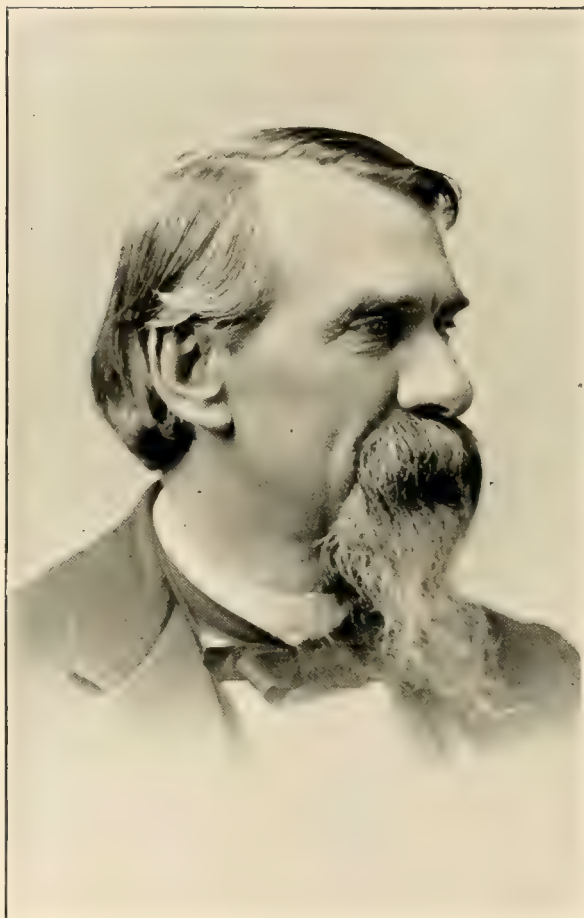
During the first year, meetings were held weekly. During this year a reading room was opened, a mission school started, under the supervision of Mesdames Bonner and Styers, a dining hall managed and public lectures and sermons arranged for. For the latter, the opera house was secured. At the meeting of December 26, 1883, in the Presbyterian church, in Greensburg, the devotional exercises were a period of spiritual interest and profit to all.

In November, 1885, after two prosperous years, the list of members included the following: Mesdames Johnston, Kemble, Wheatley, Thomson, Copper, Hittle, Styers, Doctor Johnson, Colonel Scobey, Collet, Drake, Wooden, Pool, B. D. Swem, Gavin, S. A. Bonner, Laura M. Thomson, L. S. Meal and the Misses Isabella Hamilton, Stalla Hamilton, Smiley, Davidson, Falconbury and Henika.

The fourth district convention met at the First Methodist Episcopal church, March 27 and 28, 1884, with the state secretary presiding in the absence of the state president. Mrs. Louise M. Thomson was chosen district president, with Mrs. Chester Hamilton as secretary and Miss Lizzie Lathrop as treasurer. A short time afterward the old district organization was dropped and each county was organized. The present county officers are: Mary Gray, of Greensburg, president; Mrs. Emma D. Shaffer, of Westport, secretary, and Mrs. Eva Stephenson, of Greensburg, treasurer.

At the present time the roll contains the names of one hundred and eight of the most prominent women of Greensburg, and the names of fourteen men who are honorary members. There are now twelve departments, each with its superintendent. Regular meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, with special meetings occasionally. For the year





HON. WILL CUMBACK.

1915 an excellent program was prepared containing the declaration of principles, list of members and the program of each meeting.

The officers and superintendents of departments for the present year (1915) are: President, Versie B. Owens; vice-president, Ella Adams; recording secretary, Rosalie Kercheval; corresponding secretary, Josephine Moody; treasurer, Nannie Gray. Superintendents of departments: Flower mission, Etta Woods, Lessie Gray; mothers' meetings, Josephine Moody, Arlie Gray; scientific temperance, Laura M. Thomson, Carrie Clark; medical temperance, Minerva Galbraith; Sunday school work, Emily Brown; press, Ella Adams; temperance literature, Julia Montgomery; Sabbath observance, Sarah Hunter; franchise, Ella F. Smith, Ella McKay; medal contest, Louisa Cory, Anna Kennedy; evangelistic and visiting committee, Mary Gray, Mary Eward, Elizabeth Bennett; music, Hattie Morrison, Ethel Watson, Esther Wood.

DECATUR COUNTY PEOPLE WHO HAVE RISEN TO DISTINCTION.

Every county in the state of Indiana has produced a few people who have gained reputations for themselves which have extended beyond the limits of their own county, and Decatur county is no exception. In this brief summary of notable persons from this county, only those are given who are not mentioned elsewhere in this volume. The county is proud to honor such men as Congressmen Cumback and Foley, men who have probably carried the name and fame of Decatur county farther than any other man. As an orator, as a scholar, as a lyceum lecturer, as a statesman and as a public-spirited man of affairs, it is not too much to say that Will Cumback was the county's most distinguished citizen. Foley's claim to inclusion among the leaders in his county lies in his service to the state while a member of Congress, and his subsequent career as a successful lawyer.

Two men from the county have been in the consular service of the United States, Richard H. Belt and John Goodnow. Belt was born in Baltimore and was a merchant at Westport when he was appointed consul by President Tyler in 1843. He was stationed at Matamoras, Mexico, but died there a year later of the yellow fever. He came to Decatur county from his native city in company with his brother, Thomas. There are no descendants of the family now living in the county. John Goodnow was born in Greensburg in 1856, the same year his father moved here from Vernon, Indiana, to open a flour-mill. He was appointed consul to Shanghai, China, by President McKinley in 1897.



Hon. Robert W. Miers was born in Clay township in 1845, graduated from Indiana University, was prosecutor and circuit judge at Bloomington and was elected to Congress on the Democratic ticket three times. He is now judge of the Monroe-Owen circuit court.

B. F. Clayton, born in Adams township about 1840, moved to Iowa forty years ago after having served as county commissioner here. He was elected to the Iowa Legislature and was later president of the National Farmers' Congress. He is now a prominent banker at Indianola, Iowa.

Lycurgus McCoy, born near Greensburg in 1835, moved to Iowa in 1855. He was a captain in the Thirty-third Iowa Regiment in the Civil War. Later he was elected county treasurer at Sigourney, Iowa. He became a Seventh-Day Adventist minister and moved to Battle Creek, Michigan, thirty years ago to become secretary of the sanitarium there. He is now chaplain of that institution.

Alvin I. Hobbs, born in Greensburg in 1835, became a minister in the Christian church, filling prominent pastorates in Cincinnati, Louisville and Indianapolis. He was president of Drake University at Des Moines, Iowa, in the seventies. He held a public debate with a Universalist preacher at Des Moines and the same was later published in book form.

John A. Donnell, born near Kingston in 1838, located in Iowa in 1855 and twenty years later went to Los Angeles, California, where he was elected prosecutor and became a prominent attorney for many years prior to his death in 1913.

Edmon Hez Swem, born in Greensburg in 1858, was educated at DePauw University and became a Presbyterian minister in 1882. In 1886 he changed his affiliation to the Baptist church. He was pastor of the Ninth Street Baptist church in Washington, D. C., for twenty-five years, and is still preaching in that city.

Elias R. Monfort, son of Rev. J. G. Monfort, was born in Greensburg in 1840. He served in an Ohio regiment in the Civil War with the rank of captain. He was department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic; was prosecuting attorney here in 1871 to 1873, and served as postmaster at Cincinnati, from 1899 to 1915.

William H. Carroll, born in Greensburg in 1842, served in Wilder's battery. He was a candidate for sheriff on the Democratic ticket in 1866. He moved to Marion in 1870, served as circuit judge there, and is still practicing law at that place.

Dr. Lora M. Henry, born near Springhill in 1856, graduated from

Monmouth United Presbyterian College, studied medicine and became a medical missionary at Assiut, Egypt, where he has been for fifteen years.

Platt Wicks, born in Greensburg about 1837, served as prosecutor just before the Civil War and was a prominent attorney during the sixties. He later moved to Harlan, Iowa, where he was elected to the Legislature. Still later he moved to Pueblo, Colorado, where he was a prominent barrister up to the time of his death, about ten years ago.

Jacob G. Collicott, born in Salt Creek township in 1874, graduated from the State University in 1896. He was principal of the high school at Elwood and Evansville and city superintendent at Tacoma, Washington, before becoming superintendent of the city schools of Indianapolis three years ago.

Floy Gilmore was born in Greensburg in 1877 and graduated from the local high school in 1895. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1899 with the degree of Bachelor of Law. She was assistant attorney-general of the Philippines, 1901-03; later she took a post-graduate course at Columbia University and was appointed professor of economics at Wellesley College in 1913.

Wilbur W. Woodford, artist, died at Lawrenceburg, March 19, 1882. He was born at St. Omer, January 8, 1851, and followed his father, Capt. Charles Woodward, as fifer in Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-third Indiana Regiment, when a lad of twelve years. His father was elected sheriff in 1866, and the family moved here from St. Paul. Wilbur showed marked art talent while in our city schools, and in 1870 began a study of art in the School of Design in Cincinnati. When he died he was a professor in that school. He spent two years in Paris and won many honors there. He was buried at Spring Grove cemetery, in Cincinnati, a procession of students escorting his body to the tomb, where ex-Governor Noyes, former minister to France, spoke feelingly of his acquaintance and friendship for his deceased friend.

#### THE ODD FELLOWS' HOME.

Greensburg is justly proud of the beautiful state Odd Fellows' Home which adjoins the city on the east. The cardinal principles of Odd Fellowship are friendship, love and truth, and it is due to the practical working of these three virtues that the Odd Fellows of Indiana erected this beautiful home fifteen years ago. It was the generous impulses of this great fraternity in Indiana which made possible a home which seeks to provide the

proper care for all its unfortunate members. Here may be found a comfortable home for the brothers and sisters on whom time has laid heavy hands and to whom good fortune has passed by on the other side. Here prattling childhood, robbed of kindly home and parents, finds its nearest substitute.

The first building was dedicated on May 16, 1900, and a second building on May 17, 1905. These two buildings have a total capacity of two hundred and fifty, while the hospital will accommodate twenty-eight more. The grounds comprise one hundred and thirty-five acres of beautiful rolling ground. This land was the gift of Decatur Lodge No. 103 and the citizens of Greensburg and vicinity. At the time the grand lodge was looking for a location for the home, many cities in the state offered sites, but the present location has shown the wisdom of the final choice. The farm and buildings are now valued at three hundred thousand dollars.

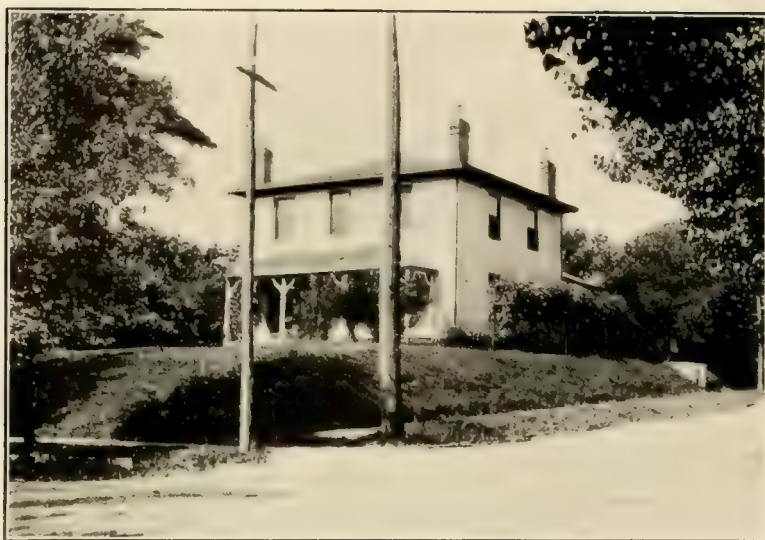
The institution, which is incorporated as the Odd Fellows' Home Association of Indiana, is maintained by a direct per capita tax of thirty-two cents on each subordinate, fifteen cents on each Rebekah and ten cents on each encampment membership, respectively. The total receipts in 1914 were about thirty-eight thousand dollars from these sources. The operating expenses of the institution, including administration and maintenance, were twenty-nine thousand one hundred and forty-one dollars and forty-two cents, an average per capita cost per meal of eighteen cents.

Since the home was opened in 1900, five hundred and eighty-nine guests have been cared for. In June, 1915, there were one hundred and fifty in the home, as follows: Men, sixty-nine; women, forty; boys, thirty-two; girls, nine. The ages of the guests range from two to ninety-two years. Since the home was opened in 1900 two hundred and fifty-four children have been received and one hundred and ten of this number have later been returned to their parents. Ninety-three children have been placed in good homes in various parts of the state. A striking evidence of the care of these children is shown by the fact that not a single child has ever died in the home. During the past year ten adults died, four children have been placed in homes and nine other children returned to their parents.

The home is managed by a board of three directors—one selected by the grand lodge, one by the grand encampment and one by the Rebekah assembly. This board serves for a term of three years. The vice-president of the assembly is ex-officio president of the board of directors. The present directors are as follows: Florence McGregor, president ex-officio;







THE OLD SEMINARY, GREENSBURG.



RAILROAD YARDS, GREENSBURG.

W. H. Bradshaw, vice-president; Mrs. Kate E. Barnett, secretary; W. E. Longley, treasurer. The present superintendent of the Home is Charles E. Lockhart and his wife serves as his assistant.

As the result of agitation which had its inception in an address before the Rebekah assembly by Charles E. Lockhart, superintendent of the home, soon after he assumed charge, the graves of twenty Odd Fellows in South Park cemetery are now honored by a massive handsome monument. This monument is a gift to the home from the lodges of the state, which contributed fifteen hundred dollars for its erection. The monument is seven feet four inches by four feet six inches at the base and stands six feet and two inches in height. It is of Barre granite, hammer finished and has the general style of a sarcophagus. The monument was dedicated on May 19, 1915. On that day fourteen hundred and thirteen members of the grand lodge and Rebekah assembly went by two special trains from Indianapolis, where they were in session, to participate in the dedicatory services and attend the unveiling of the monument. Addresses were made by W. H. Leedy, Charles Warren Fairbanks, Ella M. Clark and Mary A. Poths.

#### THE OLD SEMINARY.

During the seventies and eighties James G. May wrote a series of articles for the local papers on the old seminary, an institution of which he was the head for several years. He speaks of whipping six boys on October 26, 1836, and three of them were sons of preachers. The boys were from twelve to fourteen years of age and had been guilty of defacing some of the outbuildings of the seminary at night. The old professor says his pupils did good work for him "in spite of these little diversions." In August, 1836, fourteen of his pupils signed a challenge which read: "We challenge at the close of the session the most rigid examination in all our studies," and laid it on his desk. It was signed by Cynthia Ann Freeman, Margaret Jane Bryan, Eliza Jane Ewing, George G. M. Craig, Saphronia Hazelrigg, Magdalene Uttinger, Camilla A. Thomson, Eliza A. Hanway, Orville L. Thomson, Tabitha O'N. Craig, Tamson Church, Mary E. Reilley, Mary Kendall, John H. Sanders.

When the last day came the school trustees and parents were present. A lawyer and a minister proceeded to examine the class and found them equal to their profession. When it came to examining them on six books of Caesar the lawyer explained that he was "kind o' rusty" on the classics, and told them to examine themselves. One of the class took charge and,

of course, was easy on the others. During the 1836 term there were one hundred and thirty-four pupils enrolled.

#### A RELIGIOUS REVIVAL.

Probably the greatest religious revival ever held in Greensburg and throughout the county occurred during the winter of 1869-70. The *Standard*, in its issue of March 10, 1870, says: "The spirit of revival continues in the churches throughout the county up to this date. More than one thousand have come to Christ and united with some division of our Lord's army. In this city the number added to the churches, as far as we have ascertained, is as follows: First Methodist, R. M. Barnes, pastor, 137; Centenary Methodist, G. L. Curtis, pastor, 82; Third Methodist, J. Tarkington, pastor, 6; Presbyterian, J. C. Irwin, pastor, 90; Christian, D. R. Van Buskirk, pastor, 70; Baptist, J. Green, pastor, 8; total, 393."

#### A BAND TOURNAMENT.

A band tournament was held in Greensburg, November 1, 1882, when a crowd, estimated at from ten to twelve thousand, was present. Eight bands competed for prizes: Jonesboro, Seymour, Lawrenceburg, Franklin, Rushville, Thorntown, Milton and Aurora. The judges were Roll Adams, of Greensburg; James A. Nunn, of New Castle, and F. N. Myers, of Indianapolis. The first prize of one hundred and twenty-five dollars went to Franklin; the second, seventy-five dollars, to Thorntown, the third, fifty dollars, to Milton; the fourth, twenty-five dollars, to Lawrenceburg. It seems, from the account in a local paper of that week, that various kinds of running races were held on this day. John B. Kuhns, of Irvington, won a ten-dollar prize in a running race and Fred Boyle won five dollars as second. In a walking match for men over seventy, Joseph Patterson, of Waynesburg, won first and six dollars, and John S. Campbell, of Greensburg, took second and received four dollars for his efforts.

#### SARTOR RESARTUS.

The lost-and-found column in the early Greensburg papers was fully as interesting as any other part of the sheet. The editors had a keen sense of humor and sometimes used language which would hardly be thought in good taste at the present time. The loss of a part of some woman's rai-

ment gave the editor of the *Greensburg Standard* (June 25, 1842) a chance to get off the following witticism: "Found on the streets of Greensburg, a live, full grown, sawdust, bran, straw or rag bustle. Owner can obtain same by applying at this office."

#### A VERSATILE PREACHER.

Versatility was one of the marked characteristics of the old pioneer preachers, and it is probable that no early preacher in the county could turn his hand to more things than Rev. David Douglas. He was born in Montgomery county, Ky., in 1781, was married there in 1801, and came to this county in 1825. His father was killed in 1805 by the Indians in the battle at Stroud's station. Mr. Douglas settled in Clay township about five miles west of this city, on land now owned by Nelson Mowrey. He was known as "Davy" Douglas, and for nearly forty years his voice was heard as a plain, simple, earnest preacher of the Gospel, in the woods, in the cabins, in the school houses and occasionally in the churches. He could make a plow, shoe a horse, do any kind of farm work, and he did it. He was called to settle disputes, estates, etc., and was everywhere respected as an honest, God-fearing man. He was what was called a "New Light," believed in Christian union without any frills, insisted on Bible names and the throwing aside of all human-made creeds. He went to his reward at Milroy in January, 1861, just as the mutterings of the approaching Civil War were being heard.

#### A RECORD-BREAKING PIONEER.

It is probable that Decatur county had in the person of Henry H. Talbott not only a man who held office for a longer period than any other man in the county, but in the state as well. He was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, in March, 1800. He had become a resident of Greensburg in 1821. When the county was organized in April, 1822, he was elected county clerk and recorder, a position he held continuously until 1841. During this time he was also county auditor, a period of twenty years. For thirteen years following 1841 he was auditor and recorder and for four years thereafter he was clerk, making thirty-seven years clerk, thirty-three years recorder and twenty years auditor. He would have served longer, but a new law made him ineligible. Practically all of the early public records were written by this man in his well-known clear, legible handwriting. He married Eliza Hendricks, December 20, 1824; she died in 1860. The following



tribute is paid him: "In all his business transactions he was scrupulously honest, and he leaves a history for honesty unparalleled in the history of the county." He died at Indianapolis, July 21, 1872, where he had gone to take treatment.

#### A WILD-PIGEON ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

Wild pigeons which, years ago, went the way of the great auk and other now extinct forms of animal life, were at one time very common in Decatur county, and many of the older residents can remember when they flew so thick and close together as to obscure the sun. The largest flock of wild pigeons recorded to have passed over Decatur county migrated in 1860. The immense flock of pigeons, which extended in all directions as far as the eye could reach, passed over Greensburg, February 1, 1860. It is said that the sun was completely shut out and the city in darkness for more than an hour.

#### A STORY FOR MEN ONLY.

There have been all kinds of clubs in Greensburg, but the Bachelor's Club, which flourished more than thirty-odd years ago, was probably the most unique club the city has ever had. Many of the members of this club are still living and, as far as the historian has found out, not one of them has lived up to the principles which he took an oath to observe. One of the local papers, in its issue of September 1, 1882, says, "they met at 'Jim Polk' Ewing's office, just across from Fromer's, and marched through the alley to Ross Look's depot dining room, where they sat down to a sumptuous feast. The affair was in honor of Warren Wilson, who was just departing for Chicago." The following worthies are reported as being present: W. H. Goddard, J. K. and George Ewing, J. S. Throp, Grover Stevens, George Holby, John Jarrard, J. C. McQuiston, P. A. Doyle, Joe Wittenberg, Joe Davidson, M. D. Tackett, J. E. Mendenhall, Robert Hazelrigg, Cash Lowe, Todd Wright, Dick Warthin, John Batterton, Professor Runyon, Frank Bennett, Ed Kessing, Lou Samuels and Dola Cunningham. How long this club lasted or just why it was finally relegated to oblivion the historian leaves to the reader, but it is fair to presume that there are many women in Greensburg who could explain its disappearance.

A STORY CONCERNING GREENSBURG'S FIRST LAWYER.

The *Cincinnati Enquirer* several years ago told a story on James T. Brown, the first lawyer of Greensburg, who came here in the year 1822 and remained until 1838. Brown was a bachelor and a humorist of the first water. The story relates that when he was about to die at Lawrenceburg a preacher was called, and knelt in prayer by his bedside. The prayer had not proceeded far until Brown reached for his trousers and got a ten-dollar bill and shook it close to the parson's ear. The minister stopped, looked up and remarked that he did not make any charge for his services. "Don't you?" gasped Brown. "Well, I'll be d——d if I'd make such a plea as you've made for less than ten dollars."

DODDRIDGE ALLEY, AN ECCENTRIC PIONEER.

Concerning Doddridge Alley, who represented the county in the Legislature in 1826 and again in 1831, a large number of good stories are still told. Alley was a chronic office-holder, was very illiterate and stuttered. Some of the stories preserved are true, and some are not, but all are worth relating.

Alley introduced a bill giving sheriffs authority to perform marriage ceremonies, giving as his reason that "ministers were scarce in some localities, but that sheriffs were found everywhere." The bill was actually passed, but was never given a place in the statutes.

He came in for a considerable amount of ridicule later, upon introduction of one of his bills, providing for annexation of eighteen sections of Shelby county to Decatur county, for the reason that "Shelby county was unhealthy and some of its people wanted out of it." In regard to this bill, his fellow legislators, who made him the butt of their rough humor, were rather unfair. Ten citizens of Shelby county had asked for the introduction of this bill. They were only eight miles distant from Greensburg, while, in order to attend muster, they were compelled to travel eighteen miles to Shelbyville, through a wet and unhealthy country. The measure never reached a vote.

Alley once expostulated with his son-in-law because the latter had purchased a pistol. "Well, a man is apt to need a gun, sometimes," said the young man in defense of his act. "Yes, and a man is apt to be a d——d fool sometimes," retorted his father-in-law.

Once, when a candidate for some office, Alley gave an immense barbecue, which was attended by several hundred voters. The cooks neglected their work and the meat was served half raw. To this culinary mishap, Alley

afterwards attributed his unexpected and overwhelming defeat. Alley was an old-fashioned, stump-speaking, bushwhacking campaigner, and in one election polled every vote in Clay township.

#### BOUND BOYS.

In the early history of the county the law provided for the "binding out" of children who were thrown upon the county for support. The children were let out to the highest bidder, the one getting them agreeing to furnish them with food, clothing and shelter and give them such educational advantages as the schools of the neighborhood provided.

The following communication to H. H. Talbott, first county clerk, is preserved in the public library at Greensburg:

"Sir: I want you to draw a piece of writing, certifying that Stephen has served his time with me and is now a free man, and put the county seal thereon in order that he may not be interrupted in another state.

"October 14, 1824.

JOSEPH HENDERSON."

It is difficult to judge whether Stephen was a slave or had merely been "bound out." For the reason that he is designated merely by his first name, as was customary with slaves, and since his master feared that he might be stopped when he left home, it is possible that he might have been a negro slave. But so far as positive information is concerned no slaves were ever held in Decatur county.

The first recorded instance of a boy being "bound out" or apprenticed until he attained his majority is that of Warren Jackson. It is contained in the following court record:

"Return of William Ross and John Gageby, overseers of the poor for Washington township, 1825. Bound to John Springer, Warren Jackson, aged five in July, 1825, to learn the art and mystery of a house joiner."

It seems that not all boys were satisfied with the treatment they received at the hands of their masters and the incident below related is probably only one of many similar cases. This advertisement appeared in a Greensburg paper in 1846:

"FIFTY CENTS REWARD.—Run away from the subscriber, living in Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, Silas F. White, an indented apprentice to the tanning and currying business. Said apprentice is seventeen years old, in February last, and was bound to me until he reached the age of twenty years. All persons are forewarned from harboring or trusting him, as I will

pay no debts of his contracting; all persons are forewarned from employing him or paying him wages, as I am entitled to his services, and I shall look to them for pay for his services. The above reward and no charges will be paid to any person returning him to me.

"May 27, 1846.

CHATFIELD HOWELL."

The guardians of apprenticed boys had to enter into a written agreement to do certain things, as is shown by the following agreement, taken from the court records of Decatur county:

"Greensburg, Indiana.

"This indenture, made the second day of August, 1830, Witnesseth that Merit Duncan, aged eleven years, eleven months and twenty-four days has by and with the consent of James Floyd, guardian of the said Merit Duncan, and of his own free will hath placed and bound himself apprentice to Samuel Hood, wheelwright, of the county of Decatur and the state of Indiana, which trade the said Samuel Hood now useth, and with him as an apprentice to dwell, continue and serve from the day of the date hereof until the full end and term of nine years at which time the said Merit Duncan will be twenty-one years of age, fully to be completely ended during which time the said apprentice his said master well and faithfully shall serve, his secrets keep, his lawful commands gladly do and obey; hurt to his master he shall not do nor willingly suffer it to be done by others, but of the same to the utmost of his powers shall forthwith give notice to his said master; the goods of his said master he shall not embezzle or waste, nor lend them without his consent to any; at cards, dice or other unlawful games he shall not play; taverns or tippling shops he shall not frequent, fornication he shall not commit, matrimony he shall not contract; from the service of his said master he shall not at any time depart or absent himself without his master's leave but in all things as a good and faithful apprentice shall and will demean himself and behave toward his master during said term.

"And the said Samuel Hood in the art trade or mystery of a wheelwright, which he now useth with all things thereunto belonging, shall and will teach and instruct or cause to be well and sufficiently taught and instructed after the best way and manner that he can; and shall and will find and allow unto his said apprentice meat, drink, washing and lodging and apparel, both linen and woolen and all other necessities fit and convenient for said apprentice during the term aforesaid, and shall also cause the said apprentice within such term to be instructed to read and write and cypher as far as the single rule of three direct inclusive, and at the end of said term to give to said apprentice a good suit of Holy day clothes of broadcloth, a good hat, shoes, etc.



"In witness whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands and seals on the day and year above written.

"JAMES LOYD                      His  
"MERIT DUNCAN—X  
"SAMUEL HOOD (mark)."

"Attest: H. H. Talbott.

#### THE ESTRAY POUND.

In the early days, before there were newspapers, in which advertisements could be run, to locate lost stock, the estray pound, or "stray pen," as our fathers called it, was used for the purpose of impounding all stock found running at large. Then when the owner missed his property, all he had to do was to look for it in the pound, pay the proper charge and take the animal or animals home.

Provision for such an institution was first made by the Decatur county board of commissioners in 1823. In this year the board ordered the county agent to let the construction of a pound, forty-four feet square, of oak posts and rails, sufficiently strong to retain any animal that might be placed therein. The contractor was to receive half his pay when his work was completed and the other half in eight months. The pound was to be erected on the public square in Greensburg. The pound was maintained on the square until 1826, when the court ordered it moved to the school lot and its size somewhat reduced. The contract for this removal was given to Isaac Plough, who received three dollars eighty-seven and one-half cents for his labor. It was maintained on this lot, Michigan avenue and Railroad street, until 1842, when it was again placed on the public square. Incensed citizens, who objected to having the pen on the public square, tore it down twice within a week, and the institution passed into history.

#### POLITICS IN 1842.

In the county election of 1842 party lines were drawn only in the fight for representative. David Montague was the Whig candidate and many voters propounded the following list of questions to him: (1) Are you an infidel in religious matters? (2) Are you an abolitionist? (3) Are you in favor of taxing distilleries so as to break them down? (4) Are you in favor of the present property law? (5) Are you in favor of a "stop law"? if so, how long? (6) Are you a member of any temperance or Washingtonian Society?

"Uncle Davy" came through with replies immediately. He answered the first three questions in the negative, the next two in the affirmative, and ignored the last one. He received one thousand and sixty-eight votes to eight hundred and thirty for his opponent, Harvey Dunlavey. Evidently his stand on these questions met with the approval of the voters.

THE WHIG BARBECUE OF 1844.

On October 4, 1844, a Whig barbecue for the third congressional district was held in Greensburg. It was, beyond doubt, the biggest political gathering ever held in this region up to that time. There was bunting, flags and other decorations galore and ten thousand people are reported to have been present. Hon. James M. Cravens, the Whig congressman from this district, presided and P. A. Hackelman, of Rush county, C. F. Clarkson, of Franklin county, and D. C. Rich, of Jennings county, were secretaries.

The principal speaker was the Hon. Caleb Smith, of Connersville, who was then considered the most eloquent speaker in the state. The meeting was held in the Hendricks grove, a half mile northwest of the court house, in the locality of the old orphans' home. The task of feeding the multitude was successfully accomplished.

After dinner, Hon. Oliver H. Smith delivered a memorable campaign speech. At night the meeting was continued in the Presbyterian church, where Hackelman, Rich, Cravens and Milton Gregg, of Dearborn county, were the orators. On October 24, another monster rally was held at Rushville and many Decatur county Whigs attended. Clarksburg was represented in the parade at Rushville, with a huge canoe cut from a large sycamore log, drawn by twenty white horses and filled with twenty fair maidens to represent the number of states then comprising the Union.

ONE HUNDRED STRONG AND FOUR THOUSAND MILES TO GO.

Many of the early citizens will recall hearing of the overland trip of the Decatur-Rush county colony of 1852. On March 8, 1852, this colony of one hundred brave souls started from the Spring Hill and Richland communities on an overland journey by ox teams to far-away Oregon. They went from Madison to St. Joseph, Missouri, by boat and the remaining distance was traversed overland. After six months of privations and dangers, they landed in the Willamette valley, September 13, 1852, where they remained six years, when they moved to near The Dalles.

## AN OLD-TIME DEBATING SOCIETY.

During the Civil War a well organized debating society, composed of fifteen young men of Greensburg, flourished in that city. The society met every Friday evening in the office of the sheriff and discussed matters of public interest. After several lengthy arguments, the society decided that abolition of slavery would be necessary to stop the war and that the removal of General McClellan was justifiable.

One of the most famous debates conducted by the society was at the court house when the justifiability of Napoleon's banishment was discussed, J. D. Spillman and W. A. Moore taking the affirmative and R. C. Talbott and Captain Irvin, the negative. The record does not say who won.

## A GLIMPSE OF THE ANTI-MASONIC MOVEMENT.

Some of the able debaters of the early days, according to recorded evidence, must have been Joseph Hopkins, Andrew Robison, Thomas and Cyrus Hamilton of the Kingston neighborhood. The story is told that back some time in the late twenties two youthful students at Hanover came to Kingston and issued a challenge to the whole wide world for a discussion of Masonry.

Andrew Robison and Cyrus Hamilton, although neither knew a thing about Masonry, agreed to meet them, and, according to one who was present at the discussion, "when it was over, there was only a grease spot on the floor where the students had stood."

Twenty years later, at the same place, there was held a very celebrated discussion of the subject, "Is a United States bank constitutional, according to the constitution?" The judges were Alexander and John Porter and a man named Travis. All were property owners and had been selected because every one had implicit confidence in their fairness.

Disputants were John B. Trimble and James B. Yearns for the affirmative and William L. Douglas and Thomas Jones for the negative. Soon after the judges had retired to consider the points adduced, one of them reappeared and asked, "On which side of this question is James Yearns?" He was supplied with the needed information and the judges at once filed back with a decision favoring Yearns' side.

The announcement came as a surprise, the question being a partisan one and two of the judges being of the anti-bank party, which made it the

more difficult to understand. Yearns, however, was a son-in-law of one of the Porters, which, it was later decided, was the senegambian in the wood pile.

A CIVIL WAR DEBATE.

In September, 1862, occurred a bitter joint debate between Colonel Bemusdaffer and the Reverend Van Buskirk at Milford. They were candidates for the Legislature on the Democratic and Republican tickets, respectively. Van Buskirk took for his text the words of Stephen A. Douglas, and stuck to his text all the way through. These words were as follow:

"How are we to overcome partisian antipathies in the minds of men of all parties so as to present a united front in the support of our country? Whoever is not prepared to sacrifice party organizations and platforms on the altar of his country is not worthy of the support and countenance of honest people. We must cease discussing party issues, make no allusions to old party tests, have no criminations and recriminations, indulge in no taunts one against the other as to who has been the cause of these troubles. When we shall have rescued the country and government from its perils and seen its flag floating in triumph over every inch of American soil, it will then be time enough to inquire as to who and what has brought about these troubles upon us. Then it will be time enough for each of us to return to our party banners."

Van Buskirk argued that the Republican party, whose candidate he was, was true to this conception, that the Republican party had eschewed its name and had nominated a state ticket, with three Republicans and three Democrats upon it. He also pointed out that Colonel Gavin, a Democrat, had been named for Congress.

EARLY GREENSBURG LIBRARIES.

A fugitive notice in a local newspaper in 1857 says that there were two public libraries then open in Greensburg every Tuesday and Friday afternoons. The McClure library was free to members of the Workingmen's Institute, others paying twenty-five cents per quarter for library privileges. The other library belonged to the township and had been established by Professor Larrabee in 1855. The records showed that in nine months five hundred and seventy-six books were taken from the McClure library and four hundred and twenty-nine from the township library. No other account has been found of either library.



## ORTHOGRAPHIC CONTESTS.

Public spelling matches became very popular in the seventies and all over the country matches were held in school houses, opera houses and other places. A town in Ohio in 1875 claimed the honor of being the first to conduct a public spelling match and the editor of a Greensburg newspaper comes back in this wise:

"The question of where the spelling mania originated is being discussed, and Ohio, with her usual brazenness, is claiming the honor. We want to say that the first public spelling match in the country took place in Greensburg in 1874. The papers of the state made considerable fun over it at the time, and said that we were without other forms of amusement. Now they want to claim the honor of being first."

One of the most famous spelling matches of forty years ago was held in the county court house on March 18, 1875, when Susie F. Wise, New Pennington, won first prize over lawyers, doctors, teachers and others. This prize was one hundred and sixty acres of western land owned by James Hart.

A second spelling match was held at the court house on March 25, of the same year, with Judge W. A. Moore and G. H. Dunn as captains. W. A. Powner was umpire and Doctor Wright pronouncer. Dunn had first choice and took F. E. Gavin. Moore took N. S. Cooper. Miss Wise, who had won the week before, went down and out on "hostage." The last four standing were Moore, Cooper, E. T. Jordan and J. K. Ewing. In the end Cooper won.

## LINCOLN IN GREENSBURG.

A fact not generally known is that Abraham Lincoln once observed a birthday in Greensburg. It was February 12, 1861, his fifty-second birthday, and he was on his way to Washington to be sworn in as President of the United States. According to his itinerary, he was to go from Indianapolis direct to Cincinnati, but Will Cumback prevailed upon those in charge to hold the train at Greensburg for a short time in order that Decatur county people might pay their respects to the President-elect. A meeting of prominent citizens had been held the week before to perfect arrangements.

When the train stopped at the station, Mr. Lincoln appeared at the rear platform and was introduced by Will Cumback, who was one of the committee of escort. A crowd estimated at two thousand had gathered. Lincoln, after explaining that he had no time, on account of the limitations

of his schedule, to make an extended speech, thanked his auditors for their courtesy, and then, noticing that there was a band present, called for some music, adding that of course the sentiment of it would no doubt favor the Union. The crowd sang "The Flag of Our Union," the band played "Hail, Columbia" and then the train pulled out. While Lincoln was listening to the music, he was presented with a large red apple by John Dokes, a well-known character.

Commenting upon the President-elect, the *Greensburg Standard* said in its next issue: "Almost everybody who saw President Lincoln as he passed through this place on last Tuesday seemed to be surprised to find him so good looking a man as he is. From what they had heard and from the pictures they had seen, they of course expected to see an altogether different looking man. He is not a beauty, but then he is about as good looking as Presidents generally are."

#### THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL IN DECATUR COUNTY.

The first Sunday school in Decatur county was held in the fall of 1827 near the present Mt. Carmel church, two miles south of Clarksburg. There was no church building there at that time, but a log school house on Andra McCoy's farm, in which the Presbyterians, Methodists, United Brethren and New Lights had occasional services. Here was organized the first Sunday school. The officers of this first Sunday school were as follows: John Hopkins, superintendent; Zenas Darnell, assistant superintendent; Dr. Jesse M. Gillespie, secretary. The teachers were Miss Andra McCoy, Jane Donnell (Mrs. Luther A. Donnell), Jane Throp, Elizabeth Bell and John Bell. Dr. Nathaniel Lewis was appointed to raise money to buy a library for the school, and when the books came some of the members did not like some of them and withdrew from the school, because of the fictitious character of some of the books. This school was continued until about 1830, when it was disbanded, and the Methodists, who then had a church society there, organized another Sunday school.

#### THE ONLY LYNCHING IN DECATUR COUNTY.

Just once in the history of the county has mob law overruled the courts and claimed its victim. In the summer of 1879 Oscar M. Garrett, an Adams county farmer, was arrested, charged with the murder of John Walton, a

neighbor. Walton had a young wife in whom Garrett, although a married man, took an undue interest. The crime was at once laid at his door and the widow was also arrested, charged with complicity in the deed. So strong was public sentiment against him, that Garrett took a change of venue to Bartholomew county. Mrs. Walton was tried in the local court and sentenced to the penitentiary for life. In the trial at Columbus the state endeavored to show that Garrett had hired a colored man to perform the act.

Garrett was acquitted and returned to Decatur county, where he was at once arrested upon another charge. Sentiment ran high, and a few nights later twenty men burst the jail door and laid hands upon their victim. He fought like a tiger, with all the madness of despair. Shrieking and bleeding, he was borne toward the door and out into the yard. All the time he furiously fought his assailants. When the mob at last overpowered him and strung him to a tree in the jail yard, life was almost extinct.

John Stout was county sheriff at this time. He did his best to protect his prisoner, but the mob overpowered him. Under the state law at that time, Walton's widow secured a third of his estate.

#### THE AGAPHONE.

In 1878 Israel D. Jewett, of St. Omer, invented an instrument to which he gave the name "agaphone." The county papers of that year refer to it in glowing terms and prophecy that it will supplant the telephone in a short time. The *Greensburg Standard* says that "A reporter of the *Cincinnati Gazette*, who has twice visited St. Omer to inspect this invention, reports it a perfect triumph over the Edison instrument." For some reason the wonderful invention failed to materialize and nothing more is heard of it after that year. Whether it was ever used as a means of communication, has not been discovered, but it seems certain that it was never manufactured for commercial purposes. It was in reality nothing but a telephone.

#### PIONEER COLD STORAGE.

It is claimed that Rev. Benjamin M. Nyce, of Decatur county, Indiana, was the first man to apply refrigeration to the storage of fruit. One capitalist offered him one hundred thousand dollars for the patent rights for the city of New York, and two hundred and fifty thousand dollars was reported to have been offered him for the Louisiana concessions. He firmly declined all such offers, but failed in business at last.

A GUNPOWDER PLOT.

Emulating Guy Fawkes, three young men, in a spirit of play, on the evening of February 18, 1876, placed a beer keg containing gunpowder against the south side of the court house and touched it off. All the windows on that side of the building were shattered and bits of the keg were blown across the square, breaking a number of windows in business places. John Moody, Hick James and a Gageby boy were arrested, but were later released.

TO BUSS OR NOT TO BUSS.

In the summer of 1912 there was organized at St. Paul one of the most unique clubs which has ever arisen in the county, or in the state or nation. The cause leading up to its organization is shrouded in more or less mystery, the charter members refusing to divulge the reasons which lead to its formation, although there are those who have offered a very satisfactory explanation. The *Indianapolis News*, in the fore part of August, had a long article on this club in which its aims were set forth in detail. This club bore the culinary-osculatory title of the "St. Paul Anti-Spooning Club" and was limited to twenty members, divided equally between the two sexes. Whether the fair maidens of St. Paul originated the club or whether it was the young men, has not been ascertained; neither has it been possible to find out the nature of the initiatory services. The supposition is that the neophytes were initiated in pairs and forced to abjure all those practices common to amorously-stricken couples. In the constitution, which was the last thing every member was allowed to kiss, the initiate was sworn to forego all "flirting, fussing, spooning, kissing, holding of hands, or any demonstrations of an amorous nature." (See *Greensburg News*, August 9, 1912.) For the first violation of any one of these rules the offender was compelled either to hold the hands of the town clock or salute the mouth of Flatrock. The second violation was met with instant expulsion from the club and perpetual ostracism from all good society in the town. This club, so organized and with such excellent eugenic and sanitary provisions for its members, opened its first meeting with the full membership present. After the regular business of the club was concluded, on this opening night, a social hour was indulged in for the general welfare of the members. At the next weekly meeting the club unanimously voted to disband, the fair damsel moving its dissolution saying that she voiced the sentiments of her nine sisters when she said that such an organization was detrimental to the advancement of home



life in particular and civilization in general. Thus died one of the most unique organizations which the mind of man ever conceived, and peace and contentment once more reigned supreme in St. Paul.

"AUNT JANE" WARRINER AND HER WELL.

The location of the new Y. M. C. A. building on the lot where "Aunt Jane" Warriner lived for so many years has recalled to many of the older residents of Greensburg that old pioneer lady and her famous well. This lot was sold at the first public sale of lots on the first Monday in September, 1822, to Ella Warriner (a man) for the sum of ten dollars. The directors of the Young Men's Christian Association paid seven thousand five hundred dollars for this same lot in 1914.

"Aunt Jane" Warriner was born at Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1800 and was married to Edmund Heuston in 1819. In the winter of 1820-21 her husband came to Decatur county with Col. Thomas Hendricks and helped to survey the county in the spring and summer of 1821. During the following winter "Aunt Jane" came down the Ohio river in a barge as far as Cincinnati. From there she walked to Greensburg, alone through the forests, carrying her babe at her breast.

Her husband died a few years later and, on May 26, 1831, she married Franklin Warriner, a brother of Ella. It was soon thereafter that they located on the present Y. M. C. A. lot in a rude log cabin. They dug a well in front of the house, which, from about 1835 to 1875, a period of forty years, was a social center for the whole town. People came for squares around to get water from this well, school children flocked to it on their way to and from school, and all were welcomed by "Aunt Jane." About 1875 the well was filled up and the once famous gathering place is now only a pleasant memory.

A TWO-DOLLAR PRAYER.

The Bible says the laborer is worthy of his hire and George W. Clemons, a prominent member of the Baptist church, of Greensburg, is a firm believer in the truth of this statement. In the spring of 1915 Mr. Clemons happened to attend services at the First Methodist church and Reverend Dodridge, knowing that he often offered public prayer in his own church, called upon Mr. Clemons to pray upon this particular occasion. Mr. Clemons gave a very effective prayer and during the following week sent a bill to Reverend Dodridge for two dollars for his services. Whether the preacher was

expected to reimburse Mr. Clemons for his services when he called upon him is unknown, but he felt that Mr. Clemons by right owed him ten dollars for his sermon at the time in question. Accordingly, Reverend Dodridge made out a statement for ten dollars for services rendered, and this he took in person to Mr. Clemons and presented it to him with the request that he (Mr. Clemons) still owed him eight dollars. Mr. Clemons still owes the preacher eight dollars.

#### CENTER OF POPULATION.

According to the United States census of 1890, the center of population for continental United States was in Decatur county, about ten miles south of Greensburg and a mile and a half northeast of Westport. When the exact spot was located, in the spring of 1891, the *Chicago Herald* asked and obtained permission from the owner of the farm, A. M. Armstrong, on which it was located, to put up an appropriate monument. On Sunday, May 10, 1891, the monument was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. Addresses were made by Will Cumback, Frank E. Gavin and H. C. Miller, and A. M. Willoughby read a historical sketch suitable to the occasion. Music was furnished by the Greensburg band and the Mapleton glee club.

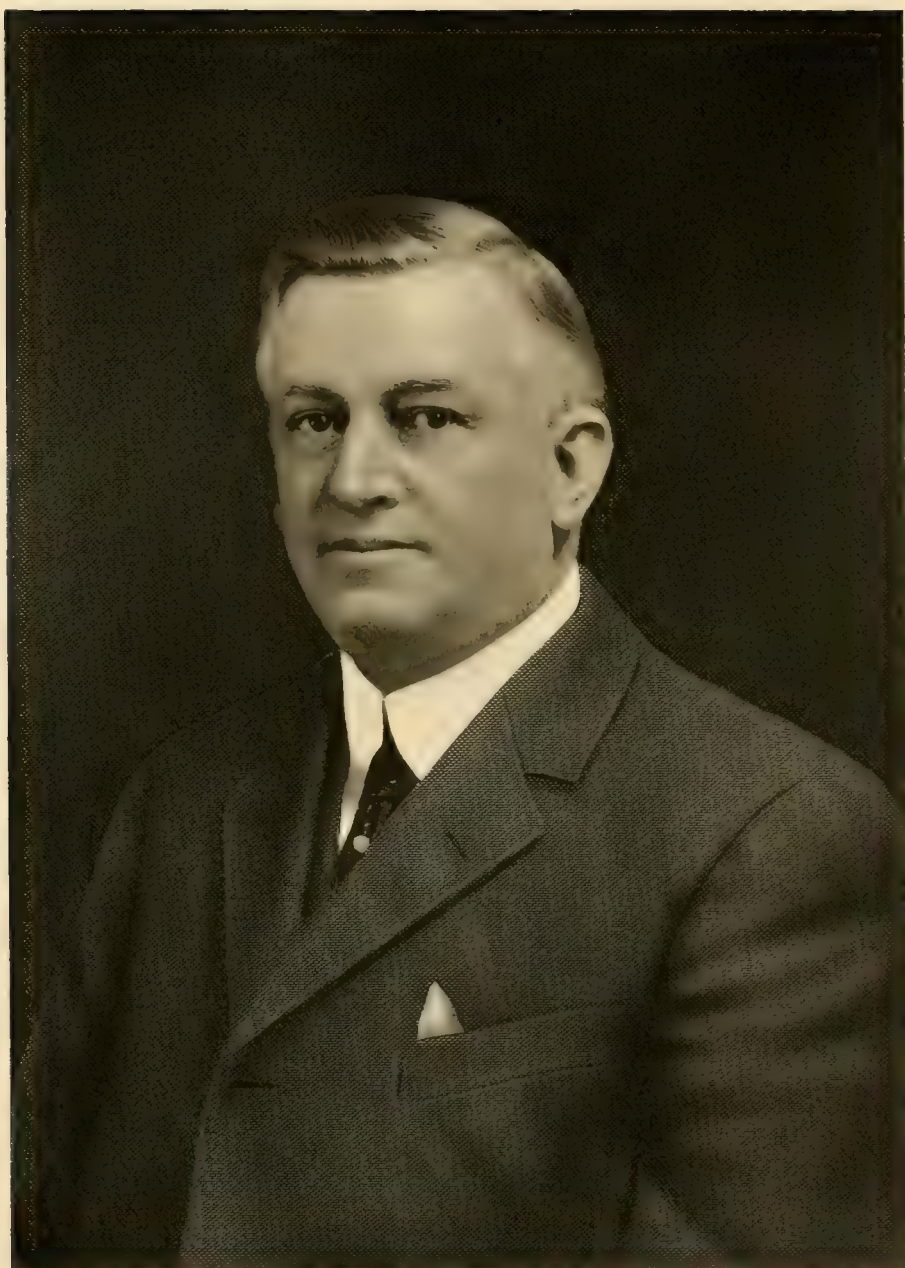
#### DRIPPING SPRINGS GARDEN.

It is not generally known that an industry has been started in Decatur county which promises to become one of the largest of its kind in the United States. In the spring of 1915 Mrs. Frances F. Ballard and Mrs. Nellie F. Muehler started a flower farm a half mile northeast of St. Paul and before the middle of the summer of the same year had twenty acres in flowers. They intend to enlarge their acreage as fast as they find a market for their product and hope to have one of the largest flower farms in the country within a few years. They have a farm of one hundred and seventy acres, with sixty-five acres under cultivation, and it is their intention to place all of the cultivated land in flowers. Strange to say, they do not intend to make their money from the sale of flowers, but from the bulbs of the flowers. At the present time (June, 1915) they have eighteen acres devoted to four flowers, namely, peonies, asters, gladiolas and dahlias. The other two acres in flowers are planted in Shasta daisies, delphinium, rudbekias, and miscellaneous flowers. The farm is well supplied with springs which run the year around and this feature gives the farm its name, "Dripping Springs Garden."









*John E. Robbins*

# BIOGRAPHICAL

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JOHN E. ROBBINS.

Old Decatur has given to the United States many citizens of wide prominence in various lines of human endeavor, many men of state prominence and a few men who have attained even national distinction. As a farmer, stockman and business man, Decatur county has produced perhaps no more widely-known man than John E. Robbins, who has won pre-eminence in many phases of human endeavor. In the first place, he is the proprietor and general manager of the John E. Robbins Company, manufactures of "Saltone," a medicated salt, which has an enormous sale among stockmen throughout the entire country, an enterprise which has brought thousands of dollars to its owner and proprietor. In the second place, he is one of the most up-to-date and progressive farmers to be found in the Middle West, and a man who has succeeded in a large way, merely because he has applied to the farm the same principles which he might apply to the operation of a railroad, a factory or a large department store. As a breeder, however, it is possible that Mr. Robbins is most widely known. A man of wide vision, he recognized the larger opportunities and, in 1896, while at Jersey Island, purchased ten head of Jersey cows, which were considered by experienced breeders on the Island to be the best that could be procured there. As a breeder of Hampshire hogs, he is equally well known and has accomplished equally remarkable feats. No attempt to explain his large success would be complete, unless one were able to met and know the man himself. It is significant, however, that he is descended from the best stock that Decatur county has ever produced. His father, his grandfather and his remote ancestors were men of large vision and great accomplishments, and it is true, no doubt, that John E. Robbins has inherited from these worthy progenitors many of his most sterling traits of character and much of his capacity for large business enterprise.

John E. Robbins was born March 29, 1864, on the old Robbins home-

stead, three-quarters of a mile south of Greensburg. Here, in a beautiful country home, surrounded with all of the opportunities which the father of wonderful ability could give to his son, he grew to manhood. The house in which he was born and in which he lived during the early years of his life, was supplanted by a magnificent brick house, erected by the father in 1868. Since he was twenty years old, he has been well-known in this state as a breeder. His business, of this character, has grown from year to year until, in 1914, he raised five hundred head of Hampshire hogs, and it was only in 1911 that he began breeding Hampshires. He sells fancy sows and boars all over the country and has exhibited his choice animals at state fair in Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa and the international live stock expositions. He has carried away a majority of the prizes and ribbons at each exhibit. A list of prizes he has won on his most famous animals would far exceed the available limits of this biographical review. Nevertheless, at his auction sale held on January 8, 1914, the "Saltone Stock Farm" established a new record. Sixty-nine Hampshire hogs sold for eight thousand seven hundred dollars, a previously unheard-of average price of one hundred and twenty-six dollars a head. "Lady Over" brought five hundred and twenty-five dollars; "Saltone II.," five hundred and ten dollars; "Vesta," four hundred and fifteen dollars, and "Bessie Burk," four hundred and five dollars. Ten hogs sold at an average of three hundred and thirty dollars, twenty hogs sold at an average of two hundred and forty-five dollars, and forty at an average of one hundred and seventy-one dollars. Mr. Robbins attributes a part of his success with Hampshire hogs to the liberal use of Saltone, a medicated salt, which he himself manufactures. At the international live stock exposition at Chicago in 1913, his herd of Hampshire hogs won two grand championships, and three championships, the prizes including, however, not only the prizes won at international live stock exposition, but also at the Iowa, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois state fairs of the same year. In 1915 he sold one hog for one thousand and twenty-five dollars. Formerly a noted importer of Jersey cattle, Mr. Robbins made many trips to Jersey Isle, and, during his career, imported many thoroughbred Jersey cattle. Beginning in 1896, for fourteen years he bred and sold Jerseys and was the only man in the United States who ever bred, raised and sold a Jersey bull which brought the enormous price of ten thousand dollars. This excellent animal, "Silverine Coomassie," was sold to Dr. C. E. Still in the spring of 1905.

Of the Saltone enterprise, it may be said that it is manufactured by the John E. Robbins Company, which was organized on December 1, 1911.



It is especially designed to destroy worms in live stock and to tone up animals physically. The formula was discovered in an enterprise launched by Mr. Robbins under the trade-mark name, "Saltone." This enterprise has been very successful, and, in normal times, the company employs about forty people and the sales in 1914 amounted to more than eighty thousand dollars.

With all of these enterprises to look after, it is not hard to conclude that John E. Robbins is a very busy man. He owns two hundred and seventy-five acres of land, and it is upon this farm, situated near Greensburg, that his extensive business operations are carried on. Personally, he is an intelligent and progressive citizen and an independent thinker and voter, although nominally he is identified with the Republican party. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic lodge; the Murat Temple; nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Indianapolis; the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Mr. Robbins has been twice married, the first time, December 24, 1884, to Lou Elder, the daughter of James Elder. She died on February 2, 1885, only a short time after their marriage. Mr. Robbins was married again, December 11, 1912, to Elizabeth C. Ehrhard, the daughter of Adam Ehrhard, of Greensburg. To this second marriage has been born one son, John Everman, who was born February 4, 1915.

John E. Robbins is a son of John E., Sr., and Nancy (Hunter) Robbins. The genealogy of the Robbins family begins with Bethiah Vickery, who was born on December 1, 1760, and who married William Robbins. To them were born three children: Albe, Charity and Benjamin. William Robbins was killed in the Revolutionary War, soon after enlisting, and his widow married a second William Robbins in Guilford county, North Carolina. To this couple were born nine children: Marmaduke and Jacob, born on May 15, 1783; Elizabeth, born on February 5, 1788; Polly, born on April 9, 1791; Nathaniel, born on April 5, 1793; John, born on February 8, 1795; William, born on August 6, 1797; Doshā, born on May 20, 1804. William Robbins, the second husband of Mrs. Robbins, was born on October 21, 1761, in Randolph county, North Carolina. In October, 1777, when sixteen years of age, he enlisted in the Revolutionary army, serving until 1781 under Capt. Joseph Clark and Colonel Dugan and Col. Anthony Sharp. He left Virginia for Henry county, Kentucky, and, in 1821, came to Decatur county, settling nine and one-half miles south of Greensburg. Here he made a home among the timbered hills. Trees were cleared away and a new log house of one room was erected with a shed, in which was built a room for carpet weaving and many kinds of cloth. In September 11, 1834, Will-



iam Robbins passed away and was buried at Mt. Pleasant cemetery. The third William Robbins, heretofore referred to in the children born to the second William Robbins and Bethiah Vivery, was born in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. He was taken by his parents to Henry county, Kentucky, and accompanied them to Indiana, when the family came in 1821. At this time he was twenty-four years of age. He selected the site for a home for himself about one and one-half miles north of his father's home, but the next year returned to Kentucky and was married to Eleanor Anderson, of that state.

Upon returning to his new home with his bride, and during the same year, three sisters and two brothers, John and Nathaniel, settled in the same vicinity. A short time later other relatives of the Robbins family came to the same township. The Robbins family became prominent both as to number and influence in the early affairs of this section. Nathaniel Robbins was the first justice of the peace in Sand Creek township. William and Eleanor Robbins lived on the farm originally selected as their home, during the remainder of their lives. They had four children: Sarilda, born in October, 1823, who married William Styers; John E., born on February 20, 1825, who married Nancy O. Hunter; James G., born on June 10, 1827, who married Elmira Stout, and Merrit H., born in 1829, who married Jeannette Gilchrist. William Robbins died on February 3, 1868, and his wife died four years later.

John E. Robbins, Sr., was born on his father's farm near Greensburg, February 20, 1825, and was married on November 7, 1844, to Nancy Hunter, the daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Hunter. After their marriage, the young couple went to housekeeping on a farm of forty acres given them by Mr. Robbins' father. After living on this farm until February 15, 1848, they purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land one mile south of Greensburg, where they made their home until their death. To this purchase, however, they added large tracts of land until they owned three thousand acres in Decatur county and twenty-four hundred acres in Bartholomew county, besides personal property of great value.

In 1882, John E. Robbins helped to organize the Third National Bank of Greensburg, and became a director and its president, in which capacity he served until his death. Under his direction and management, the Third National Bank grew to be one of the most substantial and successful institutions in the country. Mr. Robbins passed away on July 22, 1896. His wife, who had shared all of his interests and labors, a most willing and

efficient helpmate, continued to live on the farm until her long and useful life closed, May 2, 1905. John E. and Nancy Robbins had fourteen children, of whom the names of twelve are herewith given: Elizabeth Ellen, deceased; Charlotte Adeline, deceased; Sarilda Ruth, who married H. F. Smiley; Minerva Jane, who became the wife of Archie Gilchrist; Nancy Elmira, who married J. B. Kitchen; Sarah Jeanette, deceased; William Hunter, who married Cora Sefton; Clara Alinda, who is the wife of Frank B. Kitchin; Olive Ida, who married Robert McCoy; John Everman, who married Louisa Elder; Frank Roscoe, who married Katie Sefton, and Eliza Angeline, who became the wife of Will Q. Elder.

John Everman, given in the above list of children as having married Louisa Elder, is the John E. Robbins of this sketch. Mr. Robbins is at the present time at the very zenith of his usefulness, but it must not be assumed that he is at the zenith of his power and prosperity. As a matter of fact, he is hardly fifty-one years old today, and it is well known among men who have studied personal careers that great fortunes are generally acquired after the age of fifty. The people of Decatur county have every reason in the world to be proud of the career of John E. Robbins, and there is every reason to believe that they are proud of what he has accomplished; proud of the fame and name he has given to this section; gratified that the exceptional opportunities of which he has taken advantage, lie here at their threshold.

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#### GEORGE S. LITTELL.

When a neighbor, himself a successful business man, says of another, "He is the greatest worker I ever saw," it is safe to assume that the latter is a success financially, and a citizen looked up to as a leader, whether the locality in which he lives is a town or city. There is a sort of energy that is invincible, an ambition that knows no defeat, and when these characteristics are combined with a genial nature, we usually find a man well known and well liked, a power among his fellow men and a citizen worthy of honor and esteem. When such a man comes of a line of ancestry living in the same neighborhood for many years, he has an added prestige, for he and his family become a vital part of the community whose well-being is a matter of their personal concern. Such has been the relationship of George S. Littell and his ancestors to Decatur county, that its history could not be written without prominent mention of them. And today, Mr. Littell and his father in their

beautiful home are important factors in the commercial and social life of their community.

George S. Littell was born at Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, on June 1, 1854. His father, Benjamin Littell, who still lives with his son, George, is hale and hearty at ninety-five, and retains much of his former vigor and interest in life. His mother, who was before her marriage, Jane Van Sant, was the daughter of Reuben Van Sant, former county treasurer of Hamilton county, Ohio. The grandfather of George Littell was also named Benjamin, who passed away during the cholera epidemic, leaving a widow and four children, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Sarah Ann and Clara. Of Benjamin, the father of Mr. Littell, we shall have more to say later on in the present article, for he, too, has an interesting life history. His wife, who was born in 1822, lived until 1907, and died at the age of seventy-eight. Their children were, Alan-son, a merchant of Greensburg; William T., a bricklayer and mason living in Indianapolis; Frank, deceased; Mrs. Adelia McCoy, a widow who is now caring for the home of our subject and his aged father; George S., in whom our present interest centers; Eliza, wife of Phil Weymar, of Greensburg; Samuel V. and James S., merchants of the same city; Mrs. C. D. Tillson, also a resident of Greensburg, and Curtis R., who lives in Washington state. The husband of Mrs. McCoy, mentioned above, was city councilman eight years, and has one son, Frank, who is deputy postmaster of Greensburg.

Benjamin Littell, the father of George, first came to Greensburg in 1863 to manufacture brick for Augusta Lathrop, so it was on easy matter for the son not only to be interested in that line of work but to pick up a practical education in brickmaking. George was two years old when his father moved from Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, to Ripley county, Indiana, and eight years afterward they came to Greensburg. When George began working in the brick plant of his father, it was on the land which became the first fair-ground of the county as well as the location of the first gas well ever drilled in the county. Here father and son continued working together until 1882, when the latter went in business for himself, making and selling brick until 1905. At that time his place of business was on East North street. While located here, he made brick for the Union Traction station, the Big Four livery stable, the home of Robert Watson, the Worthan Block, the east half of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Home (first building), the residence of Charles Zoller and Arthur Hutchinson, the enginehouse and round-house and the DeArmond hotel. For the construction of the latter building, he not only made and molded every brick, but also delivered them himself.

It was at the time that he was engaged in this strenuous work that the remark was made by Mr. DeArmond that George was the greatest worker he ever saw.

Besides being an expert in the manufacture of brick, Mr. Littell has been and is now a successful real estate dealer and live stock merchant. It has been said of him that "there is nothing in that line that he will not trade for." It seems that he is too ambitious to be contented with raising and selling live stock. He must own and place on the race-track famous horses, such, for instance, as "Exchange Boy," the renowned horse which he bred and raised. It is said of this wonderful creature that "considering the number of races in which he started, he holds the best record of any horse in the world today." He started in seventy-two races, and was behind the money but six times, making a record of 2:17 $\frac{1}{4}$  on a half-mile track. Mr. Littell was also the owner of "Bunyp," the horse with no hair, which was exhibited with great success in all the large cities in the country, and was considered the greatest freak horse in the world.

Having an active temperament, there seems to be a strain of adventure in Mr. Littell which gives him many and various interests. For example, he at one time was owner and manager of a "carnival" which consisted of several amusement features, including a merry-go-round, a Ferris wheel, miniature railroads, etc. At the first street fair ever held in Greensburg, he won the first ribbon for saddle-horse and rider over the competition of the best riders of Kentucky.

Mr. Littell is still engaged in the real estate business, and beside handling property for others, has a great deal of his own to look after. He owns ninety acres on the outskirts of Greensburg, near his own magnificent residence, and valuable land on Main street, including the site and building of a three-story brick block. Moreover, he is the owner of fifty houses in Greensburg, some large, some small, and of four hundred and fifty acres of land in Decatur county, and eight hundred acres in Nebraska.

Mr. Littell is a Republican, and was at one time chairman of the county central committee. His interest in politics has been genuine, and his influence among politicians is that of a leader. He is a member in good standing of the Odd Fellows lodge.

Being a business associate of his father, the lives of these two men have been very closely bound together, and it is almost impossible to write of one without frequent reference to the other. In all of the activities of the younger Littell, he has had the interest and co-operation of his father,



who was an active business man for many years in Greensburg, and is now the oldest citizen of Decatur county. He was born on December 24, 1820, in Cincinnati, where he lived until early manhood. The Littell home was on Fifth street. His father, a brickmaker, was a native of Vermont, so it seems that the brickmaking industry in this family extended through three generations. After moving to Mt. Pleasant, nine miles from Cincinnati, they made this home until 1856, when they again changed their place of abode, this time going to Ripley county, Indiana, where the elder Littell engaged in farming until 1863, and then returned to brickmaking, his first contract being to supply brick for the building at the southwest corner of public square, known as "crook's corner." He also manufactured the brick for the Moss House, now the DeArmond, and Annex hotel, of which Mr. Minear is the proprietor. Remaining in the brick business until 1890, he then retired, and has made his home with his son. He is now in his ninety-fifth year, but is physically sound and mentally alert although he has been totally blind for the past six years.

Much of the success of this family has been due to the fact that they were hard-working and had good business ability. Benjamin Littell used to work early and late, and taught his children the value of a good day's work. He has always been a genial, lovable man, and in spite of his strenuous life, has taken the time to be kind. It was said of him that he could do more work than two or three men, and had the happy faculty of being able to teach others how to work. As an employer, he was wise and kind, knew how to handle men, and while peaceable in his nature, when occasion demanded it, he could defend his rights with physical emphasis if necessary. In other words, he was a fighter who never gave up when once he had been aroused. He may be regarded as a typical pioneer, for he came to Indiana in the state's infancy.

A lasting testimony to the thoroughness and honesty with which the Littells did their work, is found in the fact that many of the handsome and substantial structures standing in Greensburg today are made of the material manufactured by them, the bricks made by them being molded by hand.

Even at his advanced age, Mr. Littell retains much of his vigorous personality, and is a constant source of happiness to his son and daughter, who are tenderly caring for him during his declining years. During his many years of residence in this county, it is not surprising that he has made hosts of warm friends, having both the faculty of making new friends while retaining the old. While his educational advantages were not what they are today, he has a brilliant mind and a retentive memory. He is an interesting

conversationalist, and is versatile both in mind and in achievement. As a business man, his remarkable memory was an important asset. The home of the Littells is one of the landmarks of Greensburg, for no expense has been spared to make it both comfortable and beautiful.

With such an energetic father and grandfather, we do not wonder that the mental inheritance of George Littell has been along business lines as well as in matters of politics and social affiliations as exemplified in lodge and fraternal organizations. To say that such a career has been useful is not sufficient, for the history of counties and states are proof of the fact that their growth and settlement would have been retarded, if not absolutely impossible, but for the zeal, the perseverance and the energy of such men as we have here described. Their lives have gone into the making of Decatur county, and it may be said of the younger man, especially, that he knew how to take advantage of every opportunity, and to mold it into reality, thus not only to increase his own fortune, but that of the community as well.

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#### HARRY BOYD.

Harry Boyd, secretary of the Union Trust Company, of Greensburg, Indiana, who has risen in life to his present position of prominence in the financial circles of Decatur county, was born on October 18, 1861, in Jennings county, Indiana, the son of William and Jane (Dickerson) Boyd, the former of whom was of Irish parentage, and who was born in Dearborn county, Indiana. His wife, a native of Jennings county, was of German descent. They settled in Jennings county, Indiana, after their marriage, and in 1865 Mrs. Boyd died. After her death, William Boyd was married, secondly, to Mary Marryman. By his first marriage, William Boyd had seven children, only one of whom, Harry, is now living. He was a Democrat in politics and for some time filled the office of assessor.

Self-made and self-educated, Harry Boyd, the subject of this sketch, was finally able to prepare himself for the schoolroom and taught for four years, becoming finally the bookkeeper for Mr. Mitchell at Letts Corner. After holding this position for six months, he taught school at Letts Corner for a part of one term and then returned to Mr. Mitchell's employ. Subsequently, he became a partner with W. T. and J. G. Adams, merchants at Letts Corner, and then, in partnership with Mr. Mitchell, opened the first hardware store at Letts. After a time, he traded his interest for a farm and

was engaged in farming for four years. Not finding the farm everything that he had hoped it to be, Mr. Boyd and Mr. Adams purchased the Moore store and continued in partnership for some time, when Mr. Boyd came to Greensburg, as secretary of the Union Trust Company.

In 1888 Harry Boyd was married to Carrie I. Mitchell, the daughter of Oliver S. and Mary E. Mitchell, the former of whom, a farmer and merchant, was a native of Decatur county. He died in 1897 and his wife died in 1894. To Mr. and Mrs. Harry Boyd has been born one child, Jessie Gail, who was born on January 31, 1895.

Fraternally, Mr. Boyd is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Free and Accepted Masons. As secretary of the Union Trust Company, he has had a considerable part in the growth and prosperity during recent years of this institution. Mr. Boyd is popular with the officers and directors of the company and also with the patrons, the officers of which at the present time are: President, J. H. Christian; vice-president, Lewis Zoller, and secretary and treasurer, Harry Boyd.

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### JOHN LOCKE BRACKEN.

In the golden sayings of Epictetus there is no nobler utterance than this: "What wouldst thou be found doing when overtaken by Death? If I might choose, I would be found doing some deed of true humanity, of wide import, beneficent and noble. But if I may not be found engaged in aught so lofty, let me hope at least for this—what none may hinder, what is surely in my power—that I may be found raising up in myself that which had fallen; learning to deal more wisely with the things of sense; working out my own tranquility, and thus rendering that which is due to every relation of life. . . .

"If Death surprise me thus employed, it is enough if I can stretch forth my hands to God and say, 'The faculties which I received at Thy hands for apprehending this Thine administration, I have not neglected. As far as in me lay, I have done Thee no dishonor. Behold how I have used the senses, the primary conceptions which Thou gavest me. Have I ever laid anything to Thy charge? Have I ever murmured at aught that came to pass, or wished it otherwise? Have I in anything transgressed the relations of life? For that Thou didst beget me, I thank Thee for that Thou hast given: for the time during which I have used the things that were Thine, it suffices me.



*John L. Bracken*





Take them back and place them wherever Thou wilt. They were all Thine and Thou gavest them me.'—If a man depart thus minded, is it not enough? What life is fairer or more noble, what end happier than his?"

The above beautiful thought is suggested to the biographer by a review of the life of the late John Locke Bracken, noted attorney and one time leader of the bar of the Decatur Circuit Court, of Greensburg, Indiana. It is but fitting that in a work of this character, carrying a historical and biographical review of the times in this county, the following brief memorial should be preserved.

John Locke Bracken was born at Milroy, Rush county, Indiana, February 21, 1849, the son of Dr. William and Patience (Bracken) Bracken. Dr. William Bracken was a well-known medical practitioner at Milroy, who moved to Greensburg in 1863, practising there for many years, during which time he became one of the most noted physicians in this part of the state, being held in the highest esteem throughout this whole region. He was spared to the community in which, for so many years, his skill was so beneficially exerted, until he had reached the great age of ninety-one years, having maintained his practice with full vigor of his superb powers unimpaired until he was eighty years of age, at which time he retired from the active practice of his profession, his influence in the community, thereafter, being confined to the no less useful position of counsellor and friend, many still living in and about Greensburg having cause for grateful remembrance that Doctor Bracken lived and labored hereabout.

John L. Bracken received his elementary education in the Greensburg schools. After finishing the high-school course in the schools of his home town, he entered upon a supplementary course at DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, and was later graduated from Kenyon College. Thus equipped he entered upon the practice of law at Greensburg, where from that time to the day of his death he occupied a most prominent and honored place in the affairs of the city and county. After practicing for a period of sixteen years, Mr. Bracken's health became impaired and he retired from practice for a time, removing to a farm of forty acres which he had bought, one and one-half miles northeast of Greensburg, on which he remained until his close communion with nature had restored him to his wonted vigor, after which he resumed his residence and practice in Greensburg, the rest of his life being spent there. As a practitioner at the bar of the Decatur Circuit Court, Mr. Bracken was successful beyond the most of his fellow attorneys, and for years was regarded as the leader of the bar in this county. He had an

unusual grasp upon the intricacies of his exacting profession, and the value of his services as a counsellor in this community, never can be properly estimated. In the early period of his practice, he served as prosecuting attorney for Decatur county, his services to the public in that responsible capacity, receiving the recognition of all. During President Cleveland's administration, Mr. Bracken served as deputy revenue collector for this revenue district, under his brother William Holsworth Bracken, who was the district collector under that administration.

Mr. Bracken long was recognized as one of the leaders in the Democratic party in this section of Indiana, and his personal services ever were at the command of the managers of the party in the state. He had served his party as a delegate to state and national conventions and his sagacious counsels often proved of value in the deliberations of the party leaders. His death was, therefore, regarded as a distinct loss in political circles throughout the state, his absence creating a real vacancy in the councils of his party, while his engaging personality had so endeared him to all classes in this county, that his passing was regarded as a distinct loss to the entire community.

On December 18, 1877, John Locke Bracken was united in marriage to Mary F. Christy, who was born at Greensburg, Indiana, December 10, 1852, the daughter of William T. and Susan (Israel) Christy, natives, respectively, of Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

William T. Christy was born on September 6, 1829, and died on January 25, 1905. He came to this county from Kentucky as a young man and located at Greensburg, opening there a merchant-tailoring establishment, and for many years was recognized as one of the leading merchants in the city. For years he had practically all the trade of the growing city and became very successful in business. He was not only a man of fine business qualifications, but was a public-spirited citizen of the highest grade, his influence in the community ever being exerted for the best. His widow, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1834, of Dutch extraction, still is living, pleasantly and comfortably situated in the delightful home on West Washington street, in the city of Greensburg, where she enjoys the most respectful regard of her large circle of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Christy were the parents of two children, daughters, Mary C., widow of Mr. Bracken, and Elizabeth Anna, who married the Rev. F. S. Tincher, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church at Battle Creek, Michigan, to which union were born two children, Mary I. and Coyle C., the latter of whom lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mary I. Christy married Roscoe Martin, of Moores

Hill, Indiana, a son of the Rev. Dr. John H. Martin, president emeritus of Moores Hill College, and Josephine (Hansell) Martin, to which union there was born one child, a daughter, Dorothy Irene, on February 11, 1905.

To John Locke and Mary C. (Christy) Bracken were born two children, William Christy, who died at the age of six years, and Locke, born on August 18, 1888, who married Clara McNaught and was manager of the Ward manufacturing establishment, at Decatur, Indiana, after which, in July, 1915, he accepted a position as teller in the Greensburg National Bank. Mr. Bracken was an earnest member of the Methodist church, as is his widow, and was an active worker in the affairs of the congregation to which he was attached and the son was brought up in the same faith.

Mrs. Bracken takes an active interest in the social and club life of Greensburg, and her activities therein have been largely influential for good. She holds membership in the leading musical and literary clubs of the city, and is a member of the influential Department Club. She is devoted to the memory of her late husband, and the whole community shares with her the sense of loss at his passing. Such lives as his enrich the world with their presence. Gracefully and graciously they mingle with their fellows, leaving examples well worthy of imitation by the generations following. The real life of John Locke Bracken abides with us as a perfume of undying fragrance.

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### WILL J. CRISLER.

Among the well-known citizens of a past generation of Decatur county, Indiana, Will J. Crisler, for many years a teacher in the schools of Decatur county and later a stone dealer, occupied a prominent niche in the educational and business life of this county. Mr. Crisler belonged to a very old family in America and he was a man who worthily upheld the tradition of a noble family name.

A veteran of the Civil War, the late Will J. Crisler was born on October 7, 1840, and died on January 22, 1905. He was the son of James S. and Margaret (Arnold) Crisler, natives of Kentucky and early settlers in Shelby county, Indiana. James S. Crisler was born on February 18, 1817, and died on January 12, 1900. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Margaret Arnold, was born on April 11, 1826, and died on February 24, 1881. James S. Crisler was the son of Lewis, who was a son of Leonard, who was the son of Fawatt Crisler. The latter married Rosina Gaar, the



daughter of Andreas Gaar, born in 1685. Andreas Gaar was the son of John Gaar, who was born in 1657, and who died in 1738. Andreas Gaar and his family of five, with three hundred others, came from Bavaria to America in 1732 in a sailing vessel.

Reared in Shelby county, Indiana, and educated in the schools of St. Paul, Will J. Crisler began teaching after the close of the Civil War and, for twenty years, was a teacher in this section of the state.

On October 20, 1861, he enlisted in Company E, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered out of service, October 27, 1864, after serving in many battles and minor engagements. After the war, he taught school in Shelby and Decatur counties and in 1887 engaged in the stone business at Greensburg. He located in Greensburg in 1887. Later he operated a quarry at Westport, Indiana, and retired in 1898.

On May 15, 1873, Will J. Crisler was married to Eliza J. Stagg, who was born on January 26, 1852, in Switzerland county, Indiana, and who is the daughter of Philip D. and Sarah A. (Anderson) Stagg, natives of Indiana, he of Ripley county and she of Switzerland county, both of whom came to Decatur county in 1859. After two years in Greensburg, they moved to a farm, and in 1906, leased the farm and spent the remainder of their lives in Mrs. Crisler's home.

Philip Doddridge Stagg was one of eight children. His ancestors came to America during Queen Anne's reign, settling near Hackensack and Trenton, New Jersey. The name Stagg is of Norman-French origin and was originally spelled LeStagg. In the rolls of Parliament appear the names of John LeStagg and Dortha LeStagg. It is derived from animal traits or characteristics, such as pride, swiftness, speed and shyness of the stag. The motto on the Stagg coat-of-arms is "*En Dieu est ma fiance*," "In God is my trust." The royal mantle of crimson velvet and the Crusader's cross between the stag's horns on the coat-of-arms plainly show the royal lineage. After settling in England, branches of the family went to Holland, from which place they came to America. Philip D. Stagg was an artist of rare genius and skill and many paintings testify his artistic ability. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Methodist Episcopal church. Philip D. Stagg was the son of James Dunn Stagg, who was the son of Daniel Stagg, who was the son of Capt. James Stagg, who was the son of Cornelius, who was the son of John Stagg and the latter was a son of Thomas. The first mention of Thomas Stagg's name was in 1632, when he immigrated from England to Holland. He was one of the Dissenters of those times and, after living in Holland for some time, came to

America. Thirteen descendants of Thomas Stagg are shown to have fought in the Revolutionary War. James Dunn Stagg, the father of Philip D., was born on January 27, 1796. Capt. James Stagg, the father of Daniel and the grandfather of James Dunn, was born on September 18, 1737, and died on May 4, 1825. Major John Stagg, a cousin of Capt. James Stagg, was private secretary to General Washington at Valley Forge. Capt. James Stagg owned a large plantation in Mercer county, Kentucky. He commanded a company in a New Jersey regiment during the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Crisler's father, Philip D. Stagg, who was born on September 1, 1827, died on December 15, 1908, and her mother, Sarah A. (Anderson) Stagg, was born on March 2, 1833, and died on December 6, 1913. She was the daughter of John G. and Matilda Berkeley (Adams) Anderson, the latter of whom was a lineal descendant of John Quincy Adams, on her paternal side and of Lord Berkeley on her maternal side.

Philip D. and Sarah A. Stagg had eight children, five of whom are living, James A., of Greensburg, married Mary A. Fisher on June 29, 1875; Harvey D., of Indianapolis, married Gertrude M. Greer on September 7, 1905; Mrs. (Ida) J. N. Hodgins, of Richmond, Indiana; Mrs. Anna, wife of J. H. McGill, of Joplin, Missouri; Mrs. Crisler; Edith, who died on November 4, 1867, at the age of four; George, who died on March 24, 1904, and Albert, who died on November 12, 1905.

To Mr. and Mrs. Will J. Crisler have been born two children, Winona and Walter W. Winona, born on February 27, 1874, married, June 11, 1902, George Deiwert, of Greensburg, who was born in Shelby county, Indiana, in 1870, and has three children living, Philip Sebra, Eliza Adeline, Albert Emerson, and one, William Walter, died at the age of two and one-half years, on September 30, 1905; Walter W., born on June 3, 1882, conducts a cigar store in Greensburg. He served four years in the United States navy, three years of which were spent in the Philippines, and, by special act of Congress, received an active-service medal. He married Minnie L. Crews, of North Carolina, on July 12, 1909.

The late Will J. Crisler was a Republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also his widow. He was a member of Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic, the Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he served as noble grand. He was past commander of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and regimental secretary of the Union Veteran Legion. Mrs. Crisler is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star No. 147, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is a prominent worker in

the Woman's Relief Corps and has held many offices in this organization, among which are junior vice-president, senior vice-president, president of the department of Indiana, department press correspondent for seven years and also department patriotic instructor for eight years and national patriotic instructor for two years, which is one of the most important offices in this organization. She is secretary and past matron of Lois Chapter No. 147, Order of the Eastern Star; treasurer and past president of Pap Thomas Woman's Relief Corps No. 113; secretary of the Thirty-seventh Indiana Regimental Association, and a member of the county board of charities and correction.

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#### LEN J. EMMERT.

Four miles southeast of Greensburg, Indiana, on the old state road, is the old Cobb farm, entered from the government by the grandfather of Jasper Cobb, one of the farms settled in Decatur county and one which remained in the Cobb family until 1906, when it passed into the hands of E. G. Schultz, of whom Len J. Emmert purchased it in March, 1913. In pioneer times, a mill, a tavern and a still house were operated on this farm and, because there was always plenty of water to be found on the farm, it was a camping place for the Indians. Its many springs furnished abundant water for the whole countryside. During the last two years, the old Cobb farm has been owned and operated by Len J. Emmert, one of the foremost farmers and stockmen of the county, an extensive breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs, cattle, horses and calves. Its present owner, who has had a varied experience in business, since he engaged in farming, has applied the same business methods to the farm which he employed in the shop and the store.

Len J. Emmert was born on May 11, 1871, in Greensburg, the son of native-born German parents, John B. and Catherine (Seitz) Emmert, the former of whom was born in Mannheim, Germany, and who came to America with nothing in his possession except good health, a strong heart and a willing hand. After coming to Greensburg, in 1866, John B. Emmert built and operated the Garland mills until his death. Previously he had lived in Lawrenceburg for thirteen years. Not only was he a successful business man, but he was an influential and prominent citizen, public spirited, progressive and industrious. Catherine Seitz was born in Alsace-Lorraine and came to America with her parents in 1838. After living for some time in Hamilton, Ohio, the family moved to Dearborn county and later he became a well-known farmer in this county. John B. Emmert died in 1882 and his wife in 1909.

Educated in the public schools of Greensburg, in 1888, Len J. Emmert went to Cincinnati, where he was employed for nine years in the home steam laundry. Upon returning home, he engaged in business for a short time in the employ of Minear & Company. For a short time, he was also engaged in the dry goods business at Anderson and for six years dealt in horses and stock. Eventually, he was able to buy his present farm, which is located on the old state road, four miles southeast of Decatur county's county seat. He has been very successful in raising hogs for the market and ordinarily has from twenty to twenty-five brood sows and from sixty to one hundred stockers and feeders. The old Cobb farm is well adapted to the raising of hogs, because of the great quantity of flowing water. They are believed to be immune from cholera. In 1914 Mr. Emmert raised one hundred and thirty head of hogs. He generally fattens them until they weigh two hundred pounds and then sells them. Lately he has been keeping eighteen or twenty head of cattle, the same number of calves and from sixteen to twenty head of horses. Mr. Emmert is very fond of horses and has been able to make substantial profits buying and selling them. Today he is recognized as one of the most prosperous farmers of the county and one who, perhaps more than any other, has the operations of the farm reduced to a business basis.

On February 6, 1897, Len J. Emmert was married to Lou Goddard, who was born on October 18, 1874, and who is the daughter of William and Mary (McKinney) Goddard, the former of whom was born in 1820 in Kentucky, was married to Mary McKinney on December 6, 1866, and died in 1897. Mary McKinney was born in 1832 in Washington county, the daughter of John and Margaret (Van Cleave) McKinney, natives of Kentucky and early settlers in Washington county. They moved, in 1837, to Decatur county from Washington county, settling in Washington township. The late William Goddard was the son of Thomas Goddard, a native of Kentucky, whose parents came originally from Virginia. Mrs. Emmert is one of five children born to her parents, the others being Samuel, an auto salesman of Boston, Massachusetts; William R., who lives on the home farm; Margaret, who is at home, and Bertha.

To Mr. and Mrs. Len J. Emmert have been born three children, Louis, April 13, 1898, and is a student in the third year of the Greensburg high school; Mildred, December 26, 1901, and Mary Catherine, October 16, 1904.

In politics, Len J. Emmert is active and influential in the councils of the Democratic party. Mr. and Mrs. Emmert and family are members of the Presbyterian church of Greensburg and are regular attendants of the services.



They are liberal contributors to the support of this church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Greensburg.

As a farmer and stockman, it is doubtful if Mr. Emmert has any superior in Decatur county. He is interested in worthy public movements, which has made him a valuable citizen in the community where he lives, while his genial and cordial relations with the public have made him decidedly popular. The Emmert family are popular socially in Greensburg and vicinity.

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#### DAVID M. BLACKAMORE.

No business is of more importance economically to the farmers of this country than the elevator and warehouse business, to which is sold the most important products of the farm. Within recent years there has been a widespread agitation not only against the railroads which carry the farmers' grain to distant markets, but in many instances, against the local elevator. Criticism or censure has centered in two distinct allegations, first, that the farmers were not provided with sufficient facilities to market their grain, and second, that a combination existed among the elevator men to beat down prices and control the visible supply of the leading cereals which come from the farm. Perhaps some of the criticism has been justified, but one of the troubles of the grain business has been that the men engaged in it were incapable of grasping the farmer's point of view, or of appreciating his demands for a free market. When David M. Blackamore purchased the McCoy elevator in 1911, he brought to the business here in Greensburg the farmer's point of view, as well as an equal appreciation of the elevator operator's viewpoint. During the past five seasons the business of this elevator has grown enormously, and the increase is due, no doubt, to the fact that Mr. Blackamore pays for the farmers' product a price that is equal or greater than the price paid anywhere in Decatur county. Popular as he is with the patrons of his business, larger and larger increases may be expected in the future.

David M. Blackamore, now a well-known business man of Greensburg, but formerly a farmer of the county, was born on August 30, 1874, one mile west of Greensburg, the son of David F. and Lucetta (Sayler) Blackamore, the former of whom was born on April 6, 1823, at Shelbyville, Kentucky, and who died on October 27, 1885, and the latter of whom was born on November 15, 1838, in Ripley county, Indiana. Mrs. Lucetta Blacka-

more is still living, and makes her home with her son, David M., the subject of this review. She is a daughter of Lewis Sayler, an early settler of Ripley county. David F. Blackamore was a son of John O. Blackamore, a pioneer of Decatur county, who settled here in 1838, one mile west of Greensburg, on the farm where David M. was born. He was a sturdy, vigorous man when in his prime, a man of great mental power, strong convictions and determined will. He was very successful as a pioneer farmer in this county, and at the time of his death was rated as being worth twenty thousand dollars, all of which he had personally hewed out of the wilderness. David F. Blackamore, his son, lived on the farm settled by the father until February, 1875, when he removed to Clay township, and purchased a farm in that vicinity. This was known as the Joel Bennett farm, which he sold in the spring of 1880 to Ralph McGee. Subsequently, he purchased the Joseph Graham farm of two hundred and forty acres in Fugit township, and lived on this farm the remainder of his life.

David F. and Lucetta (Sayler) Blackamore were the parents of five children, two of whom, Will, the eldest, and Eliza, the third in order of birth, are deceased. The latter died at the age of eight years. The living children are James F., John O. and David M. James F. lives southeast of Greensburg, on what is known as the White farm. John O. lives north of Kingston, on a farm.

David M. Blackamore lived on the old home farm in Fugit township until the spring of 1900, having sold the farm in the fall of 1899, to H. Springmier. In the meantime he had become the owner of one hundred acres of the old farm. Later, in 1900, he purchased one hundred acres of land, one mile west and one mile south of the original farm, known as the old John I. Throp farm. He improved this place and held it until 1910, when he sold out and removed to Greensburg, engaging in the grain business. He now owns one hundred and sixty acres, the old Grant farm, in Adams township, located three and one-half miles from the Greensburg court house, which farm he purchased in August, 1914. He is operating this farm from his home in Greensburg.

On March 15, 1911, Mr. Blackamore took over the elevator and grain business of R. A. McCoy. This plant has a capacity of twenty-five thousand bushels of wheat and six thousand bushels of corn, and its proprietor handles on an average thirty thousand bushels of wheat and twenty thousand bushels of corn annually. He also buys straw and hay, and has a wholesale and retail business in these commodities. He buys and sells farming seeds, oats, timothy, clover, alfalfa, corn and retails coal and feed. Four men are

employed at the mill. Feed is ground for local consumption, but Mr. Blackamore is not able to grind enough for the local market, and purchases great quantities in other markets. He now has one of the best-equipped plants in Decatur county.

On June 17, 1896, David M. Blackamore was married to Harriet Elizabeth Butler, the daughter of John Butler, of Richland township, Rush county, Indiana. Of the five children born to this union, three, all of whom are sons, are still living, Merwin Adelbert, Loren Jewel and Delmar Butler, all of whom are students in the local schools. Two children died in infancy.

For many years Mr. Blackamore has been prominent in Republican politics in Decatur county. In 1912 he was the Republican candidate for representative in the Indiana General Assembly, and was defeated by sixty-two votes, at a time when the defection caused by the Progressive party was a very severe handicap. He made a splendid race in the face of great odds, holding the normal Republican vote and receiving many Democratic votes. He cut down the Progressive vote by thirty-two and received three hundred and seventy-eight Democratic votes in the county, from five to fifteen votes in every precinct.

Mr. Blackamore and family are earnest and faithful members of the Presbyterian church, of which they are regular attendants and to the support of which they are liberal contributors. Fraternally, Mr. Blackamore is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Knights of Pythias.

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### JOHN F. RUSSELL.

One of the most thriving and extensive industries of Decatur county is the Garland Milling Company of Greensburg, of which John F. Russell, a prominent and influential citizen of the fourth congressional district, is president and general manager. His long connection with one of Greensburg's leading industries, his prominence in the official life of Greensburg and Decatur county, his long service as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in Greensburg and Decatur county, have combined to make him one of the best known men of this section of the state. Like so many of the prosperous and successful business men of the present generation, he has been the architect of his own fortunes. It is no small step from a delivery wagon which he drove at the beginning of his career, to managerial position and the presidency of a large milling company, one which has a trade in all of the

principal countries of the globe, yet these two positions describe the progress of John F. Russell during an active working period of about twenty-five years.

Born on February 14, 1870, at Lawrenceburg, Dearborn county, Indiana, and the son of Richard C. and Catherine (McCullough) Russell, John F. Russell has enjoyed a phenomenal rise in life. His father, a native of Ireland, came to America when two years of age, in 1847, and after locating in Cincinnati, was married, in 1869, and became superintendent of telegraph construction for the Big Four railway. Eventually, he moved to Greensburg in 1879, and had charge of the building of the Michigan division of the Big Four, and the time of his death was an official of this railroad. He was born in 1845, and died in 1894, the son of John F. Russell, Sr. Mrs. Catherine (McCullough) Russell is the daughter of John McCullough, a native of Scotland, who married Margaret King, and who, after their marriage, settled in Galveston, Texas, where the mother of John F. Russell was born. The McCullough family removed to Cincinnati in 1852, where Mrs. Russell's father engaged in business as a wholesale commission merchant. After the death of her husband, in 1894, she married the second time to Thomas Hartman, who is deceased, and she now resides in Greensburg, Indiana. Of the eight children born to Richard C. and Catherine (McCullough) Russell, John F. was the eldest; Katie is deceased; Elsie is the wife of Dan S. Perry, the cashier of the Greensburg National Bank; Clara is deceased; Richard E. is a clerk in the traffic department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad at Chicago; Clem is employed by the American Express Company at Chicago; Marie is the wife of Stanton Guthrie, an extensive news dealer, and Lillian lives at home.

Educated in the public schools of Greensburg, Indiana, John F. Russell was graduated from the high school with the class of 1888, in the meantime, however, during 1886 and 1887, having worked on railroad construction, and during his vacations having learned the lineman's trade. During 1888 and 1889 he was engaged in driving a delivery wagon for a grocery. Two years later he was taken into the business of Doles & Russell, a grocery firm of this city. During 1896 and 1898 Mr. Russell was engaged in publishing the *New Era*, of which he was the business manager. In 1898 he entered the employ of the Garland Milling Company, and became finally a stockholder, was elected secretary and treasurer, then vice-president, and finally president of the company.

The Garland Milling Company was organized in 1898, and makes a specialty of manufacturing wheat flour from soft winter wheat. Its best



known brands are "Pinnacle," "Old Times" and "Defender." With an output of five hundred barrels a day, it exports its products to all the leading markets of the world, and especially the markets of Great Britain and Ireland, South America, the Scandinavian Peninsula, and France. Drawing its raw products from Franklin, Shelby and other counties within a radius of seventy-five miles, the company employs twenty-eight men, and is one of the most thriving industries of this city. The capital of the concern is fifty thousand dollars. The vice-president is George B. Ayers, and the secretary-treasurer is George P. Shoemaker. Mr. Russell's knowledge and his popularity among his fellows, are well attested by the fact that he served two terms as president of the Indiana Millers' Association, and is at present a director of this organization.

The prominence of John F. Russell as one of the leading Democrats of Decatur county is proved by his long-time connection with the Democratic organization, Mr. Russell having served as secretary for eight years and as treasurer for eight years of the Democratic city and county committees. Altogether he has served in various capacities connected with these committees for a period of twenty years, having been elected in 1911 by the Greensburg city council as a member of the board of education and re-elected in 1914, and served until his appointment by Governor Ralston as a member of the board of trustees of the southeastern hospital for the insane, at Madison, a board of which he is now secretary. During his administration the new high school building at Greensburg, which cost one hundred thousand dollars, was erected. It is one of the very finest in the state of Indiana, and the people of Greensburg owe as much to Mr. Russell as to any other man, for the successful completion of this splendid building. During the Democratic state convention of 1914, Mr. Russell represented the fourth congressional district on the resolution committee. He also served two terms as a director and as president of the local associated charities, and was president of the commercial club for one term, an organization in which he is now a director. Mr. Russell is also a stockholder, vice-president and director of the *Greensburg Weekly Democrat* and *Greensburg Evening Times*.

On November 22, 1891, John F. Russell was married to Ella E. Doles, daughter of Henry Doles, who, at the time of his death, in 1910, was the oldest native-born resident of Greensburg, having been born in 1822, and being at the time of his death eighty-eight years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Russell have been born two children, John Francis, familiarly known as Frank, Jr., graduated from the Greensburg high school and has been a

student at Indiana State and Purdue Universities; the other child, Clara Margaret, died in 1910.

With his many duties, private and public, Mr. Russell is also devoted to the comfort and happiness of his home and to his wife and only son. The Russell family are favorites in Greensburg and Decatur county, and Mr. Russell, in his long career, has won a host of friends by his genial personal relations with the public and his cordial manner. In many respects he has displayed those sturdy traits of character common to the Scottish and Irish people, from whom he is sprung. His greatest asset in this community, however, is not so much the business he has conducted with such conspicuous success, or the position which he has held, as the good name he enjoys among his fellows.

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#### EDEN T. RILEY, M. D.

Elsewhere in this volume, in connection with the biography of the late Hon. Zachariah T. Riley, the genealogy of the Riley family in this county is presented at some length, the Colonial and Revolutionary ancestry of the family being very clearly set out. In the presentation at this point of the biography of Dr. Eden T. Riley, one of Greensburg's best-known and most prominent physicians, the genealogical feature of the same therefore may properly be omitted, the reader being referred to the sketch above referred to for interesting information along that line, it being sufficient here to say that Doctor Riley is a member of one of the oldest and most prominent families in Decatur county, a family that has performed valuable service in the development of the best interests of the local commonwealth.

Eden T. Riley, of Greensburg, Indiana, was born on a farm in Clinton township, this county, June 23, 1868, the son of Zachariah Thompson and Mary Jane (Anderson) Riley, prominent residents of the Springhill neighborhood, the former of whom was a one-time representative in the Indiana General Assembly from this district, genealogies of both of whom the reader may find presented under another heading in this volume, and the latter of whom is still living at her home in Greensburg, this county, enjoying the evening of her life at the advanced age of eighty years. There were four children born to Z. T. and Mary J. (Anderson) Riley, Mary Libbie, who died at the tender age of sixteen years; Vessie, who is living at home with her aged mother; Dr. Eden T., the immediate subject of this sketch, and one who died in infancy.

Eden T. Riley was reared on the home farm in Clinton township, his preliminary schooling being received in the local schools of that township, supplemented by a course in the high school at Greensburg, from which latter school he was graduated. He then took a course in Butler University, at Indianapolis, Indiana, after which he entered Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, being graduated from that excellent institution with the class of 1895. Following his graduation, Doctor Riley located at Montpelier, in Blackford county, this state, where he remained for two years engaged in the practice of his profession. At the end of this time he returned to Decatur county, locating at Greensburg, in which city he ever since has been very successfully engaged in practice, having made for himself a name as a practitioner that is known far beyond the precincts of the county. He served for six years as secretary of the city board of health at Greensburg and for two years as secretary of the Decatur county board of health, his services in that connection having met with the most appreciative approbation of the general public; his interest in the public-health service having been very largely instrumental in bringing to its present high state of efficiency the department of health in this county and in the city of Greensburg.

In 1902 Dr. Eden T. Riley was united in marriage to Lottie McVey, who was born in Columbus, Ohio, daughter of C. P. McVey, and he and Mrs. Riley take a prominent part in the social affairs of their home city and are deeply interested in all the good works of the community. They are very popular among their many friends and are held in the highest esteem by all, being regarded as among the leaders in all movements having to do with the advancement of the best interests of this part of the state.

Doctor Riley is a prominent Mason, as were his father and grandfather before him, his grandfather, W. W. Riley, having been a charter member of the Greensburg lodge of that order and for many years master of the lodge at Adams, this county. Doctor Riley's membership is in Greensburg Lodge No. 136, Free and Accepted Masons, in which for four terms he has served as master, there being few Masons in this section of the state who display a more active interest in Masonic affairs than he. Doctor Riley has been high priest of the chapter, and past worthy patron of Eastern Star. He has had ten years' official connection with Masonic bodies. He is a highly-cultured gentleman, genial and affable and a prime favorite hereabout. His extensive practice takes him to all parts of the county, and the number of his friends is limited only by the number of his acquaintances, all who know him holding him in the highest respect and esteem.

GEORGE E. ERDMANN.

George E. Erdmann, a well-known citizen of Decatur county, Indiana, and the postmaster at Greensburg, Indiana, was born, March 1, 1867, in Gilford, Dearborn county, Indiana, the son of Charles E. and Ellen Morris Erdmann, the former of whom was born in Switzerland in 1838, and the latter of whom was born in Ireland, March 17, 1836. Both the Erdmann and the Morris families emigrated to the United States about 1850, and settled in Cincinnati, where Charles E. Erdmann and Ellen Morris were married. They had four children: Charles J., a bond broker, of Greensburg; William W. and Frederick, who are engaged in the cigar business, and George E., the subject of this sketch.

The Erdmann family removed to Greensburg, Indiana, in March, 1868, when George E. was scarcely a year old. Here he attended the public schools, and, after completing his education, was engaged in the manufacture of cigars with his father and brothers, until 1895, when he engaged in the real estate and insurance business. During his active business career in this city he built and repaired many of Greensburg's most splendid residences and business houses, especially one now occupied by the "Shoe Feller." Mr. Erdmann, from the time he engaged in the real estate and insurance business, enjoyed a satisfactory measure and was able to build up a large patronage in Decatur county.

For many years prominent in the councils of the Democratic party in Decatur county, he has served as a member of the Democratic County Central committee as acting treasurer and secretary; as acting chairman, and, finally, as chairman by election. During his career as one of the leaders in the Democratic party in this county he had very much to do with its successes and victories, and as a reward for faithful service to his party he was appointed postmaster of Greensburg on March 10, 1914, and is now serving in this capacity.

Mr. Erdmann was married, October 9, 1889, to Kate Hamon, who died on March 25, 1895, leaving three children, Morris, Holden and William. Some three years later, Mr. Erdmann was married to Carrie L. Livenguth, the marriage taking place, June 22, 1898. Two children were born to this union, Alva, who died in 1899, and Robert L., who is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Erdmann reside at 432 East Main street, Greensburg, Indiana, where they have a comfortable home and where they are surrounded with all the conveniences of life.

A well-known citizen of this county, George E. Erdmann has won the



confidence of the people and has worthily discharged the duties of every position of responsibility and trust bestowed upon him. He is a man of engaging personality, affable, generous, broad-minded and liberal in his views.

He is a member of the Commercial Club since its organization, and was secretary for four years. He is also a member and director of the associated charities, and for many years has been affiliated to Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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### JOHN J. FOLEY.

In the memorial literature of Decatur county, no name is more worthy of honorable mention in these pages than that which the reader notes above. Mr. Foley, a one-time well-known and wealthy grain dealer of the city of Greensburg and one of the most progressive and enterprising farmers of Decatur county, was the son of the late Hon. James Bradford Foley, one of the most noted men which this section of the state ever produced, and in all things lived worthy of the good name which had been bequeathed to him. Reared on a farm and following the vocation of farming, until he had substantially established himself in a financial way, John J. Foley left the farm and engaged in the grain business in Greensburg, becoming the leading grain dealer of that city, a business which he followed with much success until he was ready to retire from active pursuits, after which he again took charge of his farm, but never left the city of Greensburg after locating there. At his death there was much mourning, for he was a man who made and retained friends as few men are able to do and he was held in the sincerest affection throughout the whole county. His widow is living in pleasant retirement at her delightful home in Greensburg, located at 222 South Broadway, enjoying, in the evening of her life, the profoundest regard of all who know her.

John J. Foley was born on January 21, 1830, on a farm in Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Gen. James Bradford and Mary (Hackleman) Foley, the former of whom was born in Kentucky on October 18, 1807, and became one of the pioneer settlers and most prominent citizens of this county, being honored by his fellow citizens in this district by election to a seat in the Indiana state constitutional convention in 1850; honored by Governor Wright by the appointment to the post of brigadier-general of the Indiana state militia for the fourth district, and by the voters of this congressional district





*John J. Foley*



*Margaret J. Foley*





to a seat in the national House of Representatives in 1856. General Foley also had served this county as treasurer, being elected to that responsible office in 1841, and in that and all other offices to which he was called, performed the most faithful public service. General Foley died at his home in this county on December 5, 1886, honored and respected of all throughout this entire section of the state.

Gen. James B. Foley was twice married. On April 2, 1829, he was united in marriage to Martha Carter, of Mason county, Kentucky, who was born on February 25, 1810, and died on April 22, 1847, to which union there were born three children, Mrs. Mary Mansfield, who lives on Broadway, in the city of Greensburg, this county; Mrs. Mary Zoller, also of Greensburg, and Mrs. Elizabeth Payne, of Franklin, Indiana. On March 4, 1848, General Foley married, secondly, Mrs. Mary Hackleman, of this county, to which latter union there were born three children, John J., the immediate subject of this memorial sketch, Alexander A., and William O., of Connersville, Indiana. Mrs. Mary (Hackleman) Foley was born on January 21, 1830, and died on October 18, 1888.

John J. Foley was reared on the paternal farm in Washington township, this county, and received excellent schooling, the course in the public schools being supplemented by careful reading in his father's excellent private library. He was a great reader and one of the most devoted lovers of books in this county, being recognized as a person of very fine literary tastes. On January 13, 1853, Mr. Foley was united in marriage to Margaret J. Hillis and for ten year he and his wife resided on a farm in Washington township. At the end of that time they sold the farm and moved into the city of Greensburg, where, for years, Mr. Foley was successfully engaged in the business of buying and selling grain, becoming one of the most extensive dealers in grain in this part of the state, amassing quite a comfortable fortune in the pursuit of this business. Some years before his death, Mr. Foley retired from business and bought a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres on the Madison road, near Greensburg, which he took charge of until his death. Mr. Foley's death occurred on February 16, 1903, and there was since mourning among his friends at his passing, for he was a good man.

Mrs. Foley, widow of John J. Foley, was born on March 13, 1835, on a farm in this county, the daughter of John and Ann (Hazelrigg) Hillis, both of whom were natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born on February 1, 1801, and died on May 6, 1876, and the latter of whom was born on May 23, 1811, and died on November 8, 1870. John Hillis was the son

of William and Margaret (Wilson) Hillis, who were the parents of three sons and one daughter, William, John, who married Ann Hazelrigg; David, who married "Patsey" McConnell, and Jane, who married John Hazelrigg. The brothers and sisters of William Hillis were John, James, Ebenezer, who married Jane Lile; David, who married Sarah Burke; Matthew, Mrs. Nancy McConnell, Mrs. Cynthia Stevenson and Mrs. Jane Legerwood.

John Hillis and his wife came to this county in the early twenties of the last century, when Greensburg was a mere hamlet, and here they reared their family. Mrs. Foley well remembers when a log cabin served as a court house and jail for Decatur county, and she has been a witness of the marvelous development which has taken place in this section of the country since the time of her girlhood, a development to which she and her late husband were among the most active contributors in their day and generation.

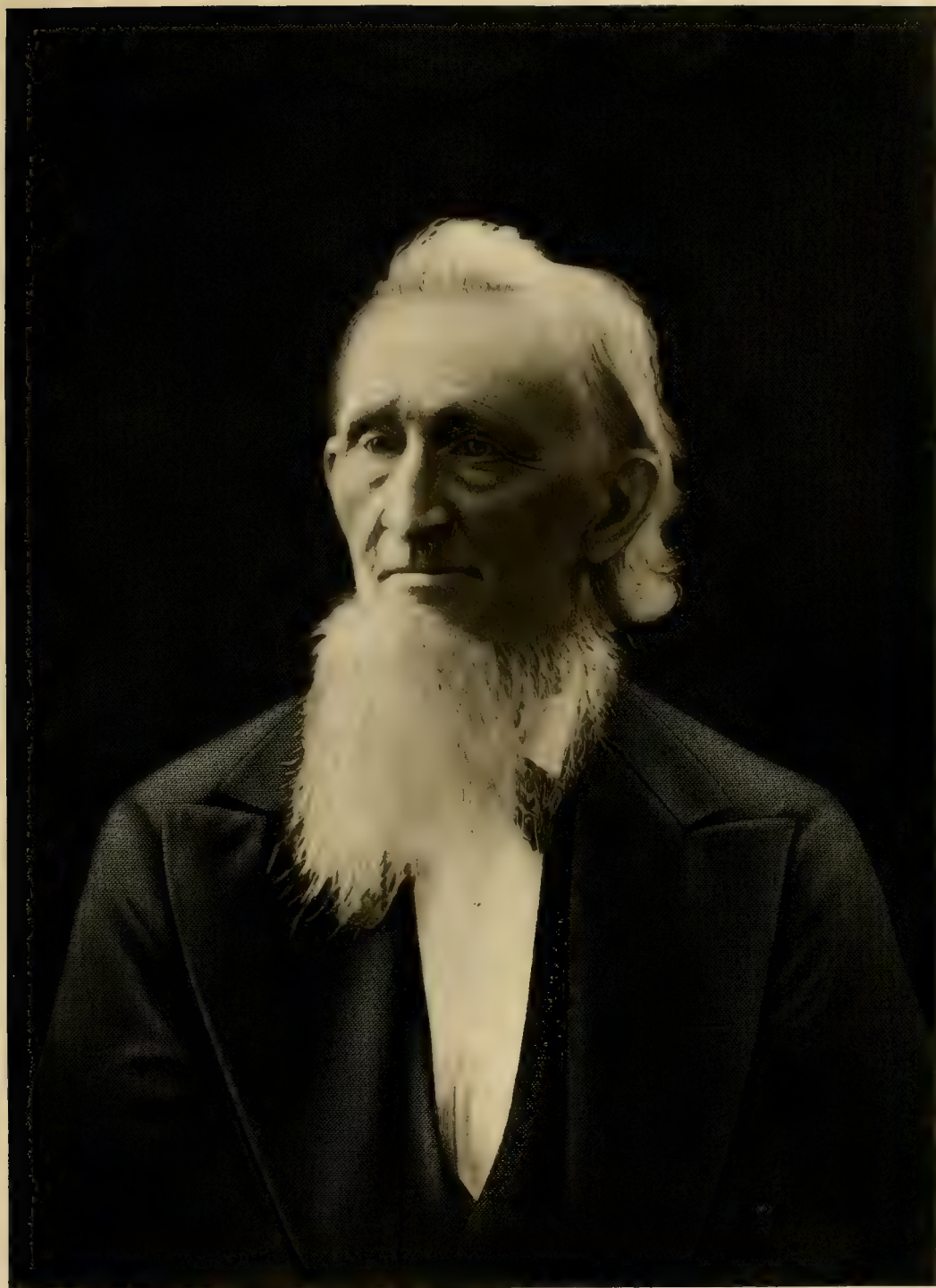
To John and Margaret J. (Hillis) Foley two children were born, Edwin Wallace, born on February 18, 1854, died on September 8, 1867, and Anna Belle, born on November 18, 1855, died on August 21, 1868.

Though not a member of the same, Mr. Foley was an attendant of the services of the Christian church and was active in the good works of his community, an honest, honorable and upright man, who believed in doing his full duty in the observance of all the principles of good citizenship. He was a Democrat and took an earnest interest in the political affairs of the county, though not an office seeker. He was a member of the Greensburg lodge of Odd Fellows, which he joined on January 15, 1855, and in the affairs of which he ever took an active and interested part. In the development of the best interests of both city and county, Mr. Foley was an active worker and few men labored in this region in the past, are more rightly entitled to an honorable memorial in the hearts of the people than he.

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#### CLARENCE FAY KERCHEVAL, M. D.

Clarence Fay Kercheval, now a well established physician of Greensburg, Indiana, who was born, October 18, 1872, in Rush county, Indiana, on a farm, is the son of J. Louis and Martha (Martin) Kercheval, the former of whom was born in 1846, Decatur county, and the latter of whom was born in 1848, Decatur county. J. Louis Kercheval was the son of William Kercheval, a native of Virginia, who was married in that state to Mary Parmore, and who, in 1840, came to Decatur county and settled in Adams



*John Willis*





township, where he was a farmer, blacksmith and wagon maker. His shop was located on the site of the Kammerling residence, the first door west of the Centenary church. He died in 1872, after having been twice married. William Kercheval had seven children: Courtney and Margaret, deceased; Louis, Oren, William and Mary, deceased, and Mabel, the wife of James Caskey. Louis Kercheval has been a farmer most of his life. In 1870 he moved to Rush county, but moved back to Decatur county and settled in Adams township in 1872. He resided on the farm until 1914, when he removed to Greensburg, but he still looks after his farming interests. Mrs. Louis Kercheval, who, before her marriage, was Martha Martin, was born in Decatur county in 1848, and is the daughter of Dr. Matthew Martin, a native of Harrison county, Kentucky, and a practicing physician in Decatur county until his death of typhoid fever in 1856, at the age of thirty-five.

Of the three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kercheval, Albert lives in Indianapolis, Earl died at the age of one year, and Clarence Fay is the subject of this sketch.

After having been reared on the farm and living on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, Clarence Fay Kercheval, who, in the meantime, had attended the district schools, was married upon reaching his majority. For several years he taught in the public schools of Decatur county, and later entered Illinois Medical College of Chicago, where, after paying his own expenses, he was graduated with the class of 1898. Doctor Kercheval began the practice of his profession at Harris City, in Decatur county, and after remaining one and one-half years, located at Greensburg. Here he has built up an excellent practice, and here he has won the confidence of the public to an unusual degree.

On September 24, 1893, Doctor Kercheval was married to Nellie McKee, of St. Paul, Indiana, and the daughter of John McKee, a merchant of that place. To this happy union, one son, John Marine, has been born. He is now fifteen years old, and a junior in the Greensburg high school. He is well known in educational circles of this city as an earnest student, and was able to do the first and second year of high school work in a single year. He is a young man of splendid attainments and a son of whom his parents are very proud.

A member of the Decatur County Medical Society and the Indiana State Medical Association, Doctor Kercheval is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, and the Loyal Order of Moose. Doctor and Mrs. Kercheval are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and both take a prominent part in the work of

the church. Doctor Kercheval is not only an eminent physician of Decatur county, but he is likewise respected and honored as one of the most enterprising citizens of Greensburg.

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### WILLIAM STEWART SMITH.

Of the hundreds of young men who left home and friends at the outbreak of the Civil War, to serve their country and to assist in the preservation of the American union, no private soldier had a better record than William Stewart Smith, who served out three enlistments during this war. At the first call for volunteers, he enlisted on April 22, 1861, in the Beminstuffer Company, of Greensburg, and was with the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, for three months. He then enlisted in the Seventeenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served eighteen months, and later in Wilder's Battery until the close of the war. The principal battles in which he was engaged were those of Cross Keys, Port Republic, Winchester, Harpers Ferry, Knoxville, and several engagements in the Atlantic campaign. At Harpers Ferry he was captured by the enemy and set free twenty-four hours later, while on parade. After returning to Springfield, Illinois, he rejoined his regiment and proceeded south to Kentucky, and participated in the siege of Knoxville and Sherman's campaign to the sea as far as Resaca. At the close of the war, Mr. Smith returned to his Decatur county home and here took up the peaceful pursuits of life.

William Stewart Smith, a retired farmer of Washington township, and the owner of sixty-two acres of land in this township, was born on October 22, 1839, in Switzerland county, Indiana, the son of Simeon and Roxanna (Jayne) Smith, natives of Indiana, whose parents came from Ireland and settled in Switzerland county. Simeon Smith was the son of Walter Smith, a native of Ireland, and his wife was the daughter of Daniel Jayne, also of Ireland. In 1853 his parents moved from Switzerland to Ripley county and William Smith came with them. Upon the death of his mother, July 11, 1854, and the remarriage shortly afterwards of his father, William Smith left home. The father, who was born on January 29, 1812, and who was married the first time, April 4, 1829, died on June 14, 1886.

Simeon and Roxanna Smith had eleven children, of whom only one other besides William S., is living. The other living child is a daughter, Rosanna, the fifth born, who lives near Lebanon, Indiana. The eleven chil-

dren, in the order of their birth, are as follow: Mrs. Jane Dilks, born on February 9, 1830, and died June 16, 1883, who married Isaac Dilks, July 18, 1849; Beniah, November 11, 1831, and died February 18, 1832; Cilicia, in November, 1832, and died May 10, 1859, who married Sylvester M. Rudycyla, in August, 1855; Celestia, January 19, 1835, and died on November 6, 1891, who married James A. Burton; Rosanna, April 14, 1837, who married John Williams, October, 1860; William S., the subject of this sketch; Marian D., February 28, 1842, and died on March 14, 1892; Maria E., September 28, 1844, and died on March 13, 1861; Mary Alice, January 20, 1848, and died August 4, 1908; Eunice Ellen, August 5, 1850, and died August 9, 1851, and Harriet Olive, November 4, 1853, and died on August 20, 1854. Simeon Smith married Laura M. Bowers and had one child born to this marriage, Dillard M., May 13, 1856, and died on August 21, 1908.

Shortly after the close of the Civil War, Mr. Smith was married, and some time afterwards lived at Smith's Crossing for three years. After this they moved to Boone county, Indiana, where they lived for three years and then moved to their present farm in Washington township, where they have lived ever since. For a period of eleven years, Mr. Smith was superintendent of the Greensburg gas and woolen works. He has always been known as a hard-working and industrious citizen, but the active period of his career is now passed and Mr. Smith has at his disposal a substantial competence for these unproductive years.

On March 15, 1866, William S. Smith was married to Sarah C. Williams, who was born February 4, 1847, in Washington township, and who is the daughter of George Washington and Drusilla (Van Cleave) Williams, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in 1812 and died in 1879, and the latter of whom was born in 1816 and died in May, 1897. George W. Williams came to Decatur county in 1830 with his father, John Williams, who had been a soldier in the War of 1812. Mrs. George Williams was the daughter of David Van Cleave, a pioneer settler in Decatur county. Of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, only two are living: Mary Drusilla, born on April 17, 1867, died in infancy; Charles I., May 25, 1868, also died in infancy; William M., October 21, 1869, who married Eugene Petus, and has one child, Marion Stewart; Julia Olive, March 10, 1871, and died on March 1, 1908, who married Charles E. St. John and left four children, Hazel Catherine, Elton Livingston, William Sherman and Nadine Lavina; Martha Rosanna, November 2, 1872, who died in infancy; one died in infancy unnamed; and Sarah Elizabeth, September 5, 1880, who married Monteville Johnson, of near Indianapolis, and has



three sons, Ivan William, George Franklin and Ralph Smith. William M., the only living son of Mr. Smith, served in Company F, One Hundred and Sixty-first Volunteer Infantry, recruited at Richmond, Indiana, by General Wilder for service in the Spanish-American War. William M., who was the second youngest captain of this company, served throughout the war. He is at present an electrician living in the city of Cincinnati. William Sherman St. John, the grandson of Mr. Smith, married Blanche Farlow and has one child, Edna Marguerite.

Fraternally, Mr. Smith is a member of Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic, at Greensburg. Since the organization of the Progressive party, in 1912, he has been identified with this party and is well-known throughout Decatur county as an ardent admirer of Colonel Roosevelt and of Senator Albert J. Beveridge. Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the United Brethren church.

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#### ANDREW M. WILLOUGHBY.

Newspaper editors and publishers exert upon a community greater influence than any other institution. When a newspaper is well managed and well edited and when it seeks conscientiously to represent the best interests in the community where it circulates, there is no means by which the breadth and depth of its influence can be accurately measured. In Decatur county the *Greensburg Daily and Weekly Review* has exerted a profound influence, socially, religiously and commercially for many years. It has always stood faithfully and valiantly in support of the highest ideals of American citizenship and its high standard is due, in a large measure, to the forcefulness of Andrew M. Willoughby, former mayor of Greensburg, who has been connected with the paper for thirty years.

Andrew M. Willoughby, the editor of the *Greensburg Daily and Weekly Review* and the former Mayor of Greensburg, was born on April 1, 1857. Educated in the public schools, he began learning the printer's trade on August 17, 1874, when he was seventeen years old. After that he worked on metropolitan papers in the Central West in various capacities for a period of nine years, coming to Greensburg in 1883. Two years later he purchased an interest in the *Review* and has been continuously connected with this paper for thirty years. Mr. Willoughby is an able editor and a writer of rare force and ability. The *Review* is a Republican newspaper and in the Fourth



ANDREW M. WILLOUGHBY.



Congressional District there is no paper which has more worthily upheld the ideals of the Republican party and which has fought harder for the success of its candidates than the *Greensburg Review*.

Mr. Willoughby is a Republican and was elected mayor of Greensburg in 1898 and served almost four years, during which time he looked honestly and sincerely after the interests of the city, endeavoring to uphold the patriotic traditions of its first citizenship and to promote its moral, civic and political welfare.

It was while serving as Mayor of the city that Mr. Willoughby opened a correspondence with Andrew Carnegie which resulted in the establishment of one of the handsomest public libraries in the state in Greensburg. He was a trustee of Decatur Lodge No. 103, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and a member of the committee which located the State I. O. O. F. Home in Greensburg, an institution of which not only Greensburg but the entire state of Indiana is proud.

He resigned as mayor in February, 1902, to become postmaster of Greensburg, which position he held until March, 1906. During his term as postmaster, Mr. Willoughby gave to Decatur county the excellent rural mail delivery service that it now enjoys, and in many other ways improved the postal service of the city and county. In 1900 Mr. Willoughby was chairman of the Republican county central committee, and succeeded in restoring the county to the Republican column after the slump to the Democrats in 1898. Mr. Willoughby has also served as deacon of the Presbyterian church for fifteen years, as secretary and president of the Indiana Republican Editorial Association and as a member of the library board for two terms. He is a charter member of Greensburg Lodge No. 148, Knights of Pythias, and of the Elks.

Mr. Willoughby has been twice married, the first time to Minnie E. Christy, daughter of the late Samuel Christy, cashier of the Citizens National Bank. To them was born one son, Raymond C., who is now a well-known newspaper man of Indianapolis. On February 12, 1895, Mrs. Willoughby died at Greeley, Colorado, and on November 22, 1898, Mr. Willoughby was married to Clara B. Hollowell, of Harrison, Ohio.

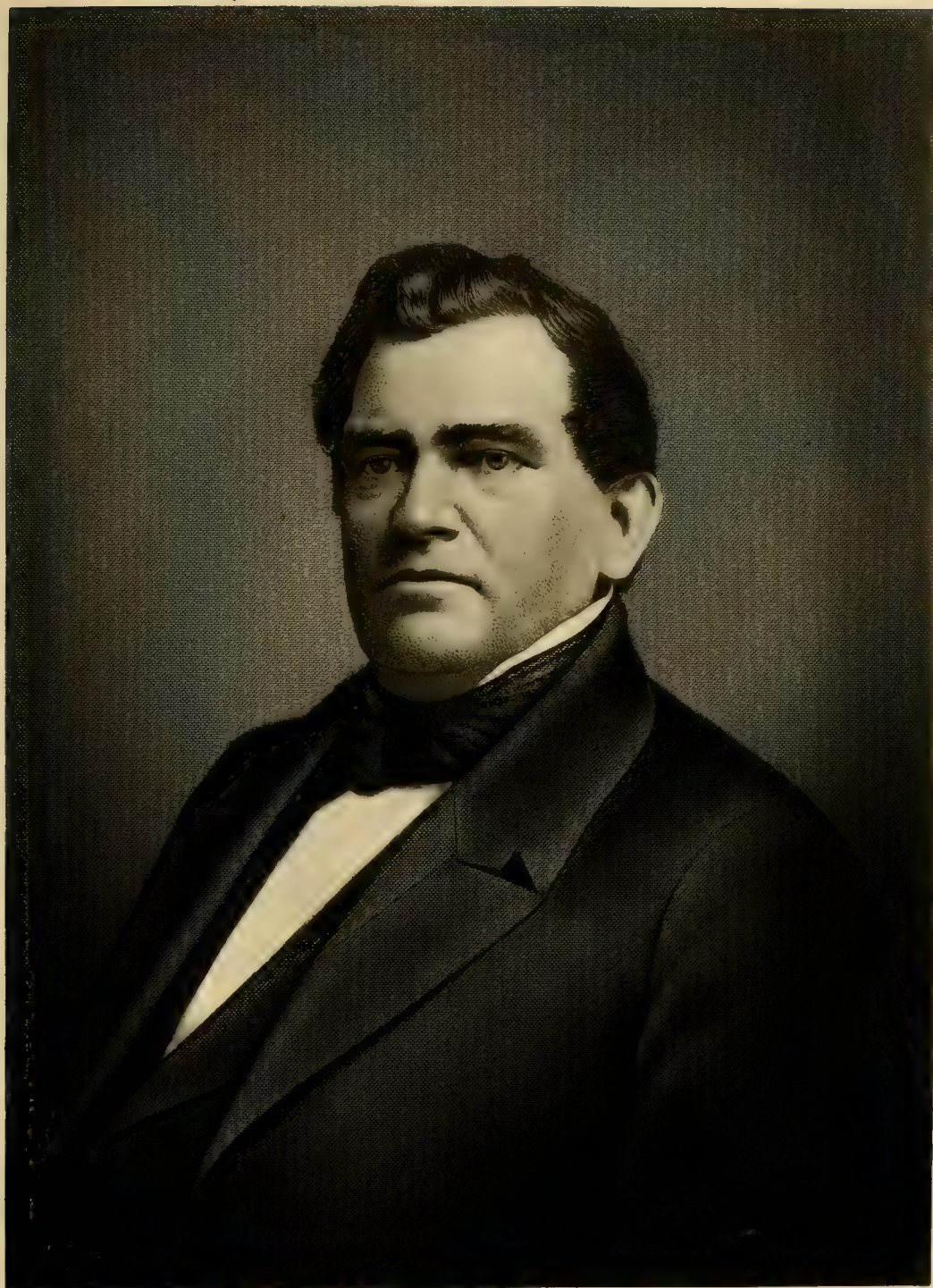
Not only in the realm of public life, where he has been prominent for more than a quarter of a century, is Andrew M. Willoughby admired and respected, but in the realm of private affairs, in the personal relations of life, he has won for himself an enviable position among the best people of this city and county. A worthy and capable editor, he is also an honored and courageous citizen.



## GEN. JAMES B. FOLEY.

The civic honors which were bestowed upon Gen. James Bradford Foley, during his long and useful life in Decatur county, and the high tribute which the people of this section of the state of Indiana continue lovingly to pay to his memory, must stand as an abiding earnest of his singular ability as a statesman and his eminent services to the public, in the various capacities to which his fellow citizens had called him. In his public service, General Foley played a dignified and forceful part; in his private life he was generous and large-hearted, greatly beloved of all who had the pleasure of an intimate acquaintance with him—a fine type of man, a useful citizen, who, in all things is fully entitled to have his name engraved high on the roll of Decatur county's great men. Though himself a leader of men, none was more willing to take even the most modest part in the service of the common weal, and, in all that he did, the good that might be done in behalf of the people, ever was uppermost in his mind. Beginning his service as county treasurer of Decatur county, then called to take his part in the framing of the basic law of Indiana in the constitutional convention of 1850, as a delegate from this district, to that historic convention; then given by the governor of the state command of the Fourth Brigade of the Indiana state militia; next sent to Congress by his admiring constituents in this district in 1856, declining a nomination to the same high honor in 1874; all the while regardful of the best interests of his home county in a moral, civic and commercial way, General Foley certainly did his part in the upbuilding of this community and did it well. Therefore, it is but fitting that in a historical and biographical work of this character, honorable tribute should be paid to his memory.

James Bradford Foley was born in Mason county, Kentucky, October 18, 1807, and died at his home near the city of Greensburg, in this county, December 5, 1886, in the ripe fullness of a green old age, honored and beloved of all throughout this entire section of the state. His father died when James B. was seven years of age, leaving to his mother the task of rearing and supporting a family of seven small children. This brave pioneer mother, who was Mary, the daughter of Benjamin Bradford, superintendent of the arsenal at Harpers Ferry during the Revolutionary War, was stricken with blindness shortly after the death of her husband, and the boys of the Foley family very early began life as bread winners. At the age of sixteen, James B. Foley began as a "hand" on a flatboat plying the waters of the Mississippi, engaged in the New Orleans trade. Applying himself



*James B. Foley*





to the opportunities which thus were opened to his discerning and enterprising mind, he presently engaged in the river trade for himself, and, by the time he had reached the age of twenty-one, had accumulated a fortune of twenty thousand dollars; no insignificant achievement for one of his years in that day. On June 15, 1834, Mr. Foley abandoned the river trade and opened a dry-goods store in the growing village of Greensburg, the seat of government in this county. For two years he operated this store, meeting with much success in his commercial venture, and then, in the year 1837, sold the store and bought a farm two miles from the city of Greensburg, on which he made his residence until the year 1880, at which time he sold this farm and bought a residence one mile out of town, in which he spent the rest of his life. For a period ending with 1877, General Foley was engaged in the pork-packing business in Cincinnati and in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, doing for years an aggregate business amounting to as much as eighty thousand dollars a year.

During all this time, General Foley was taking an active part in the civic affairs of this section and there were few men in this part of the state whose lives proved more useful to the general welfare. He was ever interested in the advancement of the best interests of this community and gave himself unselfishly and ungrudgingly to the public service. In 1841 he was elected county treasurer of Decatur county, an office in which he performed good service. When the convention for the revision of the state constitution in 1850 was called, General Foley was elected as a delegate to that convention from this county and in the deliberations of that historic body, his counsel and advice, based upon his sound judgment and excellent executive ability, proved of high value. In 1852 Governor Wright appointed General Foley to be brigadier-general of militia for the fourth district of Indiana and, in 1856, he was elected to serve this district in the lower house of Congress, a service which he performed with an eye single to the public good, largely extending his reputation as a statesman and a public man. In 1874 he was importuned by his party to accept a second nomination to Congress, but he declined the honor, his extensive business interests and the inexorable encroachment of years, necessitating his gradual, though reluctant, retirement from a measure of his former public activities.

On April 2, 1829, General Foley was united in marriage to Martha Carter, of Mason county, who was born on February 25, 1810, and died on April 22, 1847. On March 4, 1848, General Foley married, secondly, Mrs. Mary Hackleman, who was born on January 21, 1830, and died on October 18, 1888. To each of these unions three children were born, as follow:



Mrs. Mary Mansfield, who lives at Greensburg, this county; Mrs. Mary Zoller, who also lives at Greensburg; Mrs. Elizabeth Payne, of Franklin, Indiana; John J., born on January 21, 1830, died on February 16, 1903, a memorial and biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Alexander A. and William O., of Connersville, Indiana.

General Foley was a liberal supporter of the Christian church at Greensburg and also was a generous contributor to Bethany College, Virginia, and Butler College at Indianapolis, and was likewise active in all local good works in and about Greensburg. He was a Democrat and was one of the strongest supporters of that party in this county and throughout this section of the state, his sage counsel ever being sought by the party managers of this district. His large business affairs made him one of the leaders also in the commercial and financial life of this section, while his strong moral and religious convictions made him also one of the most potent factors in the general uplift of the community—a very faithful public servant of whom it truly may be said he did well his part; faithful, devoted and true in all the relations of life.

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#### ROBERT CASSIUS HAMILTON.

One of the pleasantest and most hospitable homes in Decatur county, is that of Robert Cassius Hamilton, one of the best-known farmers of Washington township, who is living on the farm, in the fine brick house erected by his father in 1863, and is active in the labors of the farm. His pleasant home is one of the landmarks in that part of the county and is a source of unbounded enjoyment to its genial owner, the well-kept lawn, driveway, evergreens and shrubbery testifying to the care with which the place is kept up. Cassius Hamilton is a member of the well-known Hamilton family of this county, of which further reference is made at other points in this biographical history, particular reference being made to the genealogy of the family in the biographical sketch relating to Chester Hamilton.

Robert Cassius Hamilton was born in Clinton township, Decatur county, Indiana, June 26, 1844, the son of William Warder and Isabelle Jane (Hamilton) Hamilton, both natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in April, 1821, died on January 22, 1907, and the latter of whom was born on February 7, 1820, and died on June 18, 1899. William Warder Hamilton was the son of William and Polly (Bernau) Hamilton, the former of Scottish and the latter of French descent, residents of Nicholas county,

Kentucky. Col. William Hamilton was a soldier and drilled a company for service in the War of 1812. Isabella Jane Hamilton was a daughter of Robert and Polly (Henry) Hamilton, natives of Kentucky, both of whom died within three days of each other, at the age of fifty-two. To the union of William and Polly (Bernau) Hamilton were born five children: Cincinnati, who died in Kentucky; Thomas George, William Warder and Samuel Robert, all of whom died in this county, and Mrs. Mary Menefee, who died in Missouri.

William W. Hamilton came to this county in 1823, when he was twenty-one years of age and spent the rest of his life here. He settled on a tract of sixty acres in Clinton township, his sole possessions at that time being a horse and saddle and fifteen dollars in cash. He prospered, his energy and initiative quickly making him one of the dominant factors in that part of the county, and gradually added to his farm lands until he presently was the owner of no less than two thousand acres of well-cultivated land in the county. In the very nature of things he took a prominent part in the affairs of this section of the state, his energy and fine executive ability giving him a place among the leaders of men and for many years was one of the directors of the state board of agriculture, part of which time he served as president of the board. He was widely known and his influence was more than local. He was one of the men most largely instrumental in securing the location of the old Vernon, Greensburg & Rushville railroad and the Greensburg & Hope railroad and assisted in building every church in Greensburg, even the Catholic church, although he was an Old School Presbyterian. He was singularly progressive in his business methods for that day and, in some things, might even have been looked upon as a "plunger," although it must be said for him that he invariably "made good" in his many financial transactions. There was no more popular man in the county than he in his day and he gained and held the warmest friendship of all his associates. Charitable to all, liberal-minded and kind-hearted, he was extremely well liked. In 1863 he moved to the farm on which his son, Cassius, now lives and, erecting a brick-kiln, burned the bricks which entered into the construction of the fine house which he built upon the place. In this home he spent the rest of his life and there his son, Cassius, now makes his home.

To William Warder and Isabella Jane Hamilton were born two sons, Robert Cassius and William Brutus. The latter died in 1905 in Greensburg, leaving four children, William Cassius Hamilton, of Indianapolis; Mrs. Mary Florine Roland, of Greensburg; Richard Ray Hamilton, of Greensburg, and Harry Warder Hamilton, of Indianapolis.

Cassius Hamilton received his elementary education in the district schools of his home neighborhood, supplementing the same with comprehensive courses in Hanover College and in Monmouth College. His father was a dealer in mules in an extensive way and when a young man Cassius was given practical direction of this branch of his business and has followed the business all his life, having been very successful. During the Civil War he indirectly supplied the government with large numbers of mules and for years was one of the heaviest shippers of this class of stock in the country. He gives his personal attention to the direction of affairs on his place. This farm consists of four hundred acres of highly-cultivated land, one of the best farms in the county.

On October 7, 1879, Robert Cassius Hamilton was united in marriage to Estelle Fenton, who was born in Wisconsin on May 23, 1856, the daughter of William Warren and Mary Eliza (Totten) Fenton, the former of whom was born in 1825 and died in 1906, and the latter of whom was born in 1826 and died in 1877. In 1859 the Fentons moved from the state of Wisconsin to Cincinnati. Mr. Fenton had been connected with large timber interests in Wisconsin and upon moving to Cincinnati was connected with the Little Miami Railroad Company. In 1871 the family moved to Greensburg, but after Mrs. Fenton's death, Mr. Fenton moved to Eaton, Ohio, later returning to Greensburg, where he died. Mrs. Hamilton has two sisters, Mrs. Iva Wooden, of Chicago, and Mrs. Phillip Auer, of Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Hamilton is a Democrat. They have many friends throughout Decatur county, all of whom hold them in the highest regard and their pleasant home in Washington township is the center of much hospitable entertainment.

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#### DAVID ANDREW ARDERY.

As we perceive the shadow to have moved along the dial, but did not perceive it moving; and it appears that the grass has grown, though nobody ever saw it grow; so the advances we make in knowledge, as they consist of such insensible steps, are only perceivable by the distance. The same truly may be said of communities in a civic, social and industrial way. The present generation is conscious of the countless advantages shared by all the members of the community, but rarely is thought given as to how these advantages were secured, it requiring the perspective of the historian to

bring into view the insensible steps by which the present lofty heights were reached. It is this perspective which volumes of this character design to lend to the view. A rigid comparison of the days of the pioneers in this community, with those of the present generation, is as startling as it is illuminating, and if this biographical work shall do no more than to create within the minds of the younger generation a vivid and comprehensive appreciation of the blessings they so readily accept as common gifts, the labor of its compilation shall have been well requited. There are still a few of the pioneers remaining in this section, who have seen these commonly-accepted blessings slowly bud and blossom and fructify, and it is of one of these that this biography shall treat, the venerable David Andrew Ardery, one of the best-known and most highly-regarded citizens of Decatur county, a man to whom his community owes much for the active part he has taken in the development of the same.

David Andrew Ardery was born on a farm in Fugit township, this county, July 8, 1837, the son of Thomas and Martha (McKee) Ardery, both natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in 1801 and died in 1846, the latter of whom was born in 1801 and died in 1872. Thomas Ardery and Martha McKee were married in Kentucky and their elder children were born in that state. In 1830 they moved to this county, settling in Fugit township, where they rented a farm. Fifteen years later, Thomas Ardery died, leaving his widow with the responsibilities of the farm and the care of a family of young children. She was of the true pioneer brand, however, and kept the family well together, managing the farm with rare ability. In her old age, Mrs. Ardery was tenderly cared for in her household; David A., her son, thus lovingly requited the devotion of her earlier days.

To Thomas and Martha (McKee) Ardery were born seven children, two sons and five daughters, all of whom now are deceased, save Mrs. Eliza Archibald Spear, of Rushville, this state, and David Ardery, the subject of this sketch. The other children were Mrs. Jane Wallace Smith, Mrs. Mary Alexander Walters, Mrs. Martha Thomas Thomson, Eliza Archibald Speer, Mrs. Nancy Margaret Throp and John William.

David Ardery was compelled, by the necessities of the case, to begin working for himself at an early age and received but a limited schooling, his attendance at school being confined to a few months in the season at the district schools, during his early boyhood. He was active, industrious and energetic and kept pushing along until, in 1872, he purchased his present farm of four hundred acres in Washington township, on which he ever since



has made his residence. In 1881 his home was destroyed by fire and he then erected his present fine large farm residence, the same being completed in 1884. Mr. Ardery has his own private gas well on his farm, the house and barn being piped for lighting and heating purposes. On his farm he also is fortunate enough to have a fine artesian well, the water from which is piped through the house and barn, the local water system receiving its pressure from a hydraulic ram. This is one of the best farm houses in Decatur county and, with its many modern improvements, affords Mr. Ardery and his family much comfort and pleasure.

On January 4, 1872, David A. Ardery was united in marriage to Theresa J. Lowe, who was born at Kingston, this county, October 5, 1852, daughter of Alfred and Isabella (Quigley) Lowe, members of old families in that section of the county. Alfred Lowe was the son of Seth Lowe, one of the earliest settlers of the Kingston neighborhood. Seth Lowe was a native of Glenwood, North Carolina, born on December 27, 1787, and who emigrated to Kentucky, where he married and, in 1821, settled at Kingston, this county, homesteading the farm now occupied by Charles Throp. He was a fine, vigorous character and a strong force in the new settlement, his influence for good thereabout being felt in many ways during the pioneer days. Seth Lowe died in 1871, while on a visit to one his sons in Mills county, Iowa. Alfred Lowe, who was born in this county in 1826 and died in 1887, married Isabella Quigley, who was born in Pennsylvania, the daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Spear) Quigley, who settled in the Kingston neighborhood in 1837, after living for a short time in Franklin county, this state. Isabella (Quigley) Lowe was born in 1835 and died in 1910. Her father, Samuel Quigley, died in 1847, the year the cholera was rampant in this section of the state. Both the Lowes and the Quigleys were strong and influential families in that part of the county.

To Alfred and Isabella (Quigley) Lowe were born eight children, namely: Mrs. Ardery; Seth, who lives at Greensburg; Charles, who lives at Kingman, Kansas; William, deceased; Edward, the Rex salt dealer, at Greensburg; Catherine, who married Thomas Hamilton, a well-known farmer who lives on the old Hopkins place east of Kingston, this county; Marsh, a well-known traveling salesman, who travels out of Cincinnati, and Arthur, who was assistant cashier of the Greensburg National Bank.

To David A. and Theresa J. (Lowe) Ardery five children have been born, as follow: Mary, who is at home with her parents; Mrs. Martha Batchelor, of Indianapolis, who has five children, David Ardery, Thomas Churchill, Robert Lowe, Martha Theresa and Helen Emily; Clara, who also

is at home; Samuel David, a well-known farmer of Washington township, this county, who married Florine Bowman and has one child, a son, David Henry; Helen Lowe, a student in Indiana University at Bloomington, and May, a graduate of Bloomington, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Ardery are members of the Presbyterian church at Greensbury and their children were reared in that faith. They, for many years, have been active in good works and no couple in the county is held in higher esteem. Mr. Ardery is a Republican and always has been interested in local politics, being one of the most earnest supporters of all measures designed to elevate the standards of government, not only being an active worker in the ranks of his party, but a liberal supporter of the finances of the party; such work as he has done, however, having been done only as a means of supporting the cause of good government as he recognized it, he never having been included in the office-holding class. Mr. Ardery is a large man and in the days of his vigor was a veritable giant for strength. He finds himself now somewhat enfeebled, with the near approach of his eightieth year, but, for all that, retains all his former wit and jocular manner. In his heyday, he was a man among men and still enjoys life as well as anyone, proving himself a most entertaining companion. He is hospitable and cheerful, an ardent lover of his home and is proud of Decatur county and his native state.

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#### HENRY M. AULTMAN.

To be a successful photographer, a man must study both cause and effect. Anyone may take a picture, but unless one has that artistic instinct, without which no art is perfect, the result is apt to be unsatisfactory. It is like making a suit of clothes. Anyone may build cloth into a covering for the human form, but the result is frequently very discouraging to all concerned. It is true, that a garment may frequently be tinkered with until it is wearable, but it is not a work of art, and comes under the head of a built-over article. A satisfactory photograph is one that is a perfect article at the start. It will admit of no building over. The gentleman whose name is mentioned in the following pages has so thoroughly satisfied his patrons as to his artistic ability and good work, that he has no need for worry in regard to his future success.

Henry M. Aultman, photographer and engraver, of Greensburg, Indiana, was born on December 5, 1868, in Jennings county, and is a son of

Martin and Nancy (Porter) Aultman. He worked on a farm for a time, and after his marriage, took up the study of photography at home, and later established his present gallery at Greensburg, where he has been most successful and where he has about paid for a fine new home. He is a Republican, a member of the Baptist church, and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Martin Aultman, father of our subject, was a native of Louisiana, and served three years in the Confederate army in a Louisiana regiment. He was captured at Pittsburg Landing, and taken to Louisville, where he took the oath of allegiance. He came directly to Indiana after the war, settling on a farm in Jennings county, and with the exception of about five years in Illinois, he lived in Jennings county until his death.

Henry M. Aultman, our subject, was united in marriage, in 1895, to Miss Luella Geiling, daughter of George Geiling, of Jennings county. They were the parents of the following children: Ivan O., Leroy Chester, Omer Franklin, Edna May and William Raymond. Ivan O. is in the coast artillery, United States army, at Fort Stevens, Oregon; Leroy is at home. Mr. Aultman's present gallery was established in 1903, on the north side of the square at Greensburg, where he carries on all branches of photography and engraving.

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#### ROBERT S. MEEK.

The Meek family is not only among the best known families of Decatur county, but it is likewise one of the most numerous in this county. The earlier generations of the family all had large families of children, and since the family was established in this county in pioneer times, it naturally has become numerous. Thomas and Martha Meek, who came from Kentucky to Decatur county, Indiana, had fifteen children, most all of whom lived to maturity. Samuel Meek, a son of Thomas and Martha (Davis) Meek, accompanied by two brothers-in-law, James and William McCracken, was the first of the Meek family to settle in Decatur county. Samuel Meek, and the McCrackens came here in 1821. Robert S. Meek, the son of John Meek, who was the son of Samuel Meek, who in turn was the son Thomas and Martha (Davis) Meek, is also a native of Decatur county, and has spent all his life here. His wonderful business success in life is not a matter of accident, since it is founded upon habits of industry and methodical ways of doing work formed early in life. In fact, most successful careers are founded

upon habits formed during youth and young manhood. Robert S. Meek is hale and hearty at the age of seventy-five years, and this is a condition which is due to his open and active life, and to the painstaking care he has always taken of his health.

Robert S. Meek, well-known capitalist of Greensburg, and one of the heavy stockholders in Meek Ice Company, was born, March 27, 1840, on a farm in Clinton township, in a log cabin built by his grandfather, John Montgomery, who, by the way, was the father of his mother, Mrs. Jane (Montgomery) Meek.

Robert S. Meek's father, John Meek, was born in Kentucky in October, 1814, and passed his youth in the wilds of Fugit and Clinton townships, Decatur county. He married Jane Montgomery, and after enjoying a successful career as a farmer, retired to Greensburg, where he died on April 20, 1896. He and his wife, who, during their lives, were devout members of the United Presbyterian church, had a family of four sons and six daughters, four of whom, the eldest, are deceased. Mrs. Turgot Ennis, Mrs. Lola Smith, Josiah and Etta are deceased. The last two died early in life. Robert S. is the subject of this sketch. The other children, in the order of their birth, are, Mrs. Margaret E. Robinson, John T., Louisa, the wife of John A. Meek, Adam, Jethro C., Mrs. Mary Brown, of Rushville, and Mrs. Anna Pleak, of Greensburg.

It was Thomas Meek, the grandfather of John, who was the first of the Meek family to settle in Decatur county, as heretofore related. Samuel was one of fifteen children born to his parents, Thomas and Martha (Davis) Meek. The children were as follow: James, born January 8, 1781, died in Kentucky; Samuel, born, May 15, 1782, and died, August 18, 1837; Sarey was born, August 17, 1784; Priscilla was born, September, 1786; Adam R. was born, December 15, 1789; Martha was born, April 30, 1792; David was born on January 21, 1794; Jemima was born, May 9, 1796; Luziah was born, April 28, 1797; Mary was born, June 15, 1800; Davis was born, September 18, 1802; Sophia was born, August 31, 1805, and Anna K. was born, January 18, 1808.

With little or no opportunity to secure education, because pioneer educational advantages were extremely limited, Robert S. Meek remained at home until of age, helping to clear the land his father settled and working hard from early boyhood, usually from sunrise until dark. His earliest recollections are of driving cows and milking them at the age of six years. He actually began when five years old, and, by the time he was grown, had



built up a strong and rugged constitution. At the age of twelve years, he was accustomed to do a man's work.

In April, 1861, Robert S. Meek enlisted in Company F, Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Beamenstaffer, and served four months. On the second call, he responded with an enlistment for thirty days to help ward off a guerrilla attack at Henderson, Kentucky, in 1861. He also re-enlisted to repel the Morgan invaders.

After the war, Mr. Meek settled on a farm at Springhill in Fugit township, his father having given him a hundred and sixty acres of land, for which he paid one thousand dollars, as he earned it. Mr. Meek was very successful with hogs and cattle. For a long time he was in the employ of a Mr. Allerton, of Illinois, as a stock buyer, and bought thousands of cattle for export purposes to Europe. Investing his savings from time to time, he accumulated about nine hundred acres of land in Rush and Decatur counties, and this land is today well improved and very valuable. Mr. Meek has refused a hundred and fifty dollars an acre for his home farm.

In 1911, Mr. Meek became interested in the Greensburg Ice Company, or rather in what came to be called the Meek Ice Company. Previously, he was associated with his son, Clyde L. Meek, in the grain business. The Meek Ice Company was organized by Robert S., Jethro C., his brother, and the son of R. L., Clyde L. Meek, with a capital of fifty-five thousand dollars. The Meek Ice Company does a most substantial and profitable business, and now includes, not only ice, but the retail coal business, and furnishes employment to ten men. In 1909, Mr. Meek removed to Greensburg, and enjoys the occupation of a splendid brick residence on North Franklin street.

On January 26, 1861, Robert S. Meek was married to Espy Patton, a daughter of Nathaniel Patton, an early settler of Decatur county, and a native of Ohio. Mrs. Espy (Patton) Meek died on February 16, 1879, after having had four children, two of whom are deceased. Of these children, Leda, the eldest, died at the age of eighteen years; Mabel is the wife of George Davis, of Greensburg; Delta died in childhood, and Clyde L. is the manager of the Meek Ice Company. On June 18, 1895, Mr. Meek was married again to Melissa Patton, a sister of his first wife. Her father, Nathaniel Patton, was born in 1809 and died in 1889. He married Elizabeth M. Duncan, of Kentucky, who was born in 1812 and died in 1894. Nathaniel was a native of Adams county, Ohio, and the son of Nathaniel Patton, Sr., who moved to Rush county, about 1823.

Although a Republican in politics, Mr. Meeks has never found time for any considerable political activity. The Meeks are stanch members of the

United Presbyterian church at Springhill, four Meek brothers having contributed five thousand dollars for the building of this church. In fact, the ancestors of Robert S. Meek were some of the founders of the church at Springhill.

Robert S. Meek has not only lived a life of usefulness in Greensburg and Decatur county, but he has set a worthy example to young men of the present generation. Few men have more effectively demonstrated what economical and frugal living, industry and good management will accomplish. At the age of seventy-five, Robert S. Meeks, not only is able to enjoy the fruits of his early labors, but, because he has cared wisely for his health, he is enabled to enjoy the competence he has accumulated in the fullest measure. He is a most worthy citizen of this great city and county.

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#### ALBERT C. RUSSELL.

One of the best-known and most popular men in Decatur county, is Albert C. Russell, of Greensburg, a retired merchant and farmer who was born in this county and has lived here all his life, being known to nearly every man, woman and child in that part of the county in which the greater part of his active life was spent, the eastern part of the county, in the Clifty (or Milford) neighborhood in Adams and Clay townships, where for years he was engaged in the merchandise business and where for years he also was equally well known as a farmer. He and his wife, who are among the large landowners of the county, are now living a life of quiet retirement in the county seat, where they enjoy the esteem and regard of all their large circle of acquaintances.

Albert C. Russell was born in Clifty, this county, on July 2, 1841, the son of Robert C. and Sarah C. (Craig) Russell, natives, respectively, of Ripley county, Indiana, and Kentucky. Robert C. Russell came to Decatur county in 1845, when fifteen years of age, and engaged in the manufacture of wheat fans at Clifty. He also farmed and engaged in the merchandise business at that place, moving from thence to St. Paul, this county, where he died in 1901 at the age of eighty years. He married Sarah P. Craig, who was a daughter of William Craig, an early pioneer of this section, who entered about sixteen hundred acres of land near Burney and then went to Shelby county. To this union there were born ten children, two sons and eight daughters, Alice, Dorcas, Henrietta, Albert C., Mary, Lena, George H.,

Adelia, Ida and Ann K. Of these six are living, namely: Mrs. Dorcas Ridlen, of Rosedale, Indiana; Mrs. Henrettia Stevens, of Rushville, Indiana; Albert C., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mrs. Lena Iupenlautz, of Gilman, Indiana; Mrs. Adelia Tomkins, of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Mrs. Ida Cory, who lives near Burney, in this county.

Albert C. Russell was reared at Milford and grew up to a full acquaintance with the merchandise business in his father's store at that place. After his marriage, he became a partner with his father in the store at St. Paul, this county, where he remained four years, being engaged in the buying of grain in connection with the general merchandise business. At the end of this time he bought a small farm in Adams township, on which he lived for three years, at the end of which time he sold the farm and bought one hundred and sixty acres at Turners cross roads, which he presently traded to Edward Marshall for a stock of goods and the store building at Clifty, taking in, at the same time, a partner in the person of James D. Braden, whose interest in the store he later bought. He then traded a half interest in his store for the Walter Braden farm and he and Mr. Braden bought the adjoining tract of one hundred and sixty acres. About two years after buying the Braden interest, Mr. Russell's store was destroyed by fire and Mr. Russell moved onto the Braden farm, where he lived for twenty years and where his wife, who was a daughter of Walter Braden, died. In the old brick house which was known as the Braden homestead, Mrs. Russell was born, married and died and there she also spent the most of her life.

Following the death of his wife, Mr. Russell rented his farm and for about thirteen years boarded with his tenant farmer, at the end of which time he married the widow of James D. Braden and, in February, 1906, moved to the city of Greensburg, where he and Mrs. Russell are living in pleasant retirement. Together they own a farm of five hundred and ninety acres about two and one-half miles southwest of Clifty, in Clay township, and are very well circumstanced.

In the year 1860, Albert C. Russell was united in marriage to Lucinda Jane Braden, who was born on March 10, 1843, and died on September 13, 1894, the daughter of Walter and Elizabeth (Mowery) Braden, pioneers of the Clifty neighborhood, to which union there were born four children, namely: Nina A., on August 27, 1862, married J. W. Young and lives on a farm south of Clifty; Walter Braden, September 3, 1864, died on November 5, 1891; Robert J., April 7, 1867, was graduated from the Indiana Dental College at Indianapolis in 1894 and has practiced dentistry in Greensburg for twenty-one years; married on March 3, 1902, Glenn Montgomery, daugh-

ter of John G. and Lida Montgomery, of Greensburg, and has one child, a son, Albert M., and John N., born on March 16, 1869, died on November 30, 1869. The mother of these children died in 1894, as set out above.

On March 7, 1906, Albert C. Russell married, secondly, Mrs. Etta G. (Anderson) Braden, widow of James D. Braden, who was born on November 19, 1851, the daughter of William and Mary E. (Stanley) Anderson, natives of New Jersey, the former of whom was born on February 15, 1814, died on May 26, 1894, and the latter of whom was born on January 5, 1825, and died on February 11, 1905, who were the parents of six children, John F., William B., Mrs. Sallie R. Whisman, Mrs. Russell, Hamlin and Mollie. James D. Braden, who died in 1886, was the son of Walter Braden. By his marriage with Etta G. Anderson he had one son, Emmet, who married Clara Jenkins and died, leaving one daughter, Mary Louise.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell are members of the Methodist church and take a warm interest in the various beneficences of that church. Mr. Russell is a Republican and a member of the Odd Fellows and the Masons. He also is a member of the Horse Thief Detective Association at Clifty. Though practically retired from the active labors of life, he continues to take a keen interest in public and general affairs and he and his good wife are held in universal esteem among all who know them.

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#### MRS. DORCAS E. (McLAIN) HOLMES.

Among the well-known women of Greensburg, Indiana, is Dorcas E. (McLain) Holmes, who was born on October 31, 1842, in Butler county, Ohio, the daughter of David and Lucinda (Brown) McLain, natives of Ohio, who came to Indiana in January, 1842, first locating in Bartholomew county. The father engaged in the mercantile business near the Decatur county line, buying land in Decatur county and becoming a very wealthy man. He and his wife had five children, two of whom died in childhood. The three children who lived to maturity are Mrs. Holmes; Elizabeth, who married Lafayette Elliott, of Bartholomew county; and Oliver Perry, who died in 1905.

Mrs. Holmes grew up in Bartholomew county, Indiana, and lived at home with her parents until her first marriage to John Kelley, on November 7, 1858. He was the son of Matthew and Charity Kelley, the former of whom was a large landowner in Jackson township, Decatur county. John Kelley, the first husband of Mrs. Holmes, who was a well-known school teacher and farmer, died in 1864, leaving a son, James P., who died at the



age of thirty-three years in Kansas City, Missouri. Mrs. Holmes and her first husband lived in Decatur county.

The second husband of Mrs. Dorcas E. (McLain) Holmes was George W. Holmes, who was born in 1828 and died in 1912. He was born in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, and was the son of Robert Holmes, a native of Ohio and one of the pioneers of Decatur county. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes were married on July 3, 1865. He had been twice married before, first to Jane McCannon, who bore him one daughter, Ann Eliza, who is now deceased, and second to Martha Stafford, who bore him one son, George, who now lives at Redlands, California. Four children were born to him and Mrs. Dorcas E. Holmes, David T., of Greensburg; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Annerman, of Sardinia, who has six children, Frederick, Magnolia, Ruth, Calvin, Helen and Edna; Mrs. Lucinda Williams, of Austin, Texas, and Henry Clay, of Wyoming, who has two children, Mary and Ruth.

David McLain, the father of Mrs. Dorcas E. Holmes, was a prominent citizen of two counties, having served as county commissioner in Bartholomew while living there, and having been elected to the same office after his removal to Decatur county. He was a well-known leader in the councils of the Democratic party. Although he himself was a stanch Democrat, he was perfectly willing that others should think and vote as they pleased. He owned nearly four hundred acres of land in Jackson township and, before his death, presented this land to his children. The farm of one hundred and sixty-two acres in Jackson township, which Mrs. Holmes now owns, she received from her father. Her only brother who grew to maturity, Oliver Perry McLain, died in 1905, leaving a wife and three daughters, who now live in Indianapolis. The daughters are Clara, Blanche and Edith.

After Mr. and Mrs. Holmes were married, they settled on a farm near Westport, in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, and within one and one-half years they moved on Sand creek, two miles south of Westport. Two years later they moved to near Sardinia in Jackson township and, in October, 1907, moved to Greensburg, Mr. Holmes dying five years later.

Mrs. Dorcas E. Holmes is an intelligent, cultured and refined woman and is highly respected by the people of Greensburg and is well known, especially in the several communities in which she has lived in Bartholomew and Decatur counties. She has experienced, no doubt, her share of both joys and sorrows, but she has borne the one without great exultation and the other without complaint. In her declining years she is able to enjoy the comforts of life and to live in ease. These are her compensations for the toil and worry of latter days.

## CHARLES ZOLLER.

Charles Zoller is one of the best-known business men in the city of Greensburg and in Decatur county, Indiana, a man who for sixteen years has been engaged in the insurance business in this city, and who during this period has built up a large clientele and patronage. Aside from his insurance business, which he personally conducts, he is also heavily interested in two of Greensburg's most flourishing enterprises, the Greensburg Building and Loan Association and the Greensburg Natural Gas, Oil and Water Company, to the latter of which he is secretary-treasurer and general manager.

During Mr. Zoller's sixteen years in the insurance business at Greensburg, Indiana, he has represented most of the time fourteen of the largest and best companies of this country, among which are the Aetna, the Hartford, Springfield, Queen, National, Fire Association, New York Underwriters, Niagara, Fireman's Fund and the Sterling. He also is the Decatur county representative of the Fidelity and Casualty Company, the Southern Surety Company and the Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford. These companies comprise not only the largest and the best in the insurance field, but the ones which are the surest and safest guarantee of the promises and pledges contained in their policies. Mr. Zoller now has, as a result of his sixteen years continuous business, an extensive renewal department, which has become very profitable.

In the Greensburg Building and Loan Association, a corporation established in 1896, and capitalized at a half million dollars, Mr. Zoller is associated with some of the best-known business men of Decatur county. The original capital of this company was one hundred thousand dollars, but from year to year it has grown to its present large proportions. The president of the company is W. C. Woodfill; the secretary, Mr. Zoller, and the treasurer, Walter W. Bonner. The directors include, besides the officers, Robert Nagle, George P. Shoemaker, P. T. Lambert and Louis Zoller. No institution in Decatur county has had more to do with the construction of new homes and the repair of old homes than the Greensburg Building and Loan Association, since it has furnished to home owners an easy means by which their property might be improved.

Another flourishing enterprise, of which Mr. Zoller is an important factor, is the Greensburg Natural Gas, Oil and Water Company, an incorporated concern which was established on July 17, 1886, and of which he is now secretary-treasurer and general manager. Capitalized at twenty-five thousand dollars, it supplies natural gas for domestic purposes. Its presi-

dent is W. B. Ansted and its directors, besides the officers, are Margaret Porter, Mary Lewis and Louise German.

Two other enterprises, with which Charles Zoller is connected, are the Decatur County Independent Telephone Company, and the Third National Bank. He is secretary of the telephone company and a director in the Third National Bank.

Mr. Zoller's important connections with leading business enterprises in Decatur county is, therefore, apparent. He is a widely known citizen and popular, not only in commercial and industrial circles, but in the larger life of the community. He is a man of broad and liberal views, interested keenly in all worthy public enterprises and a man who in support of their behalf can always be depended upon.

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#### ARTHUR J. LOWE.

A resident of Decatur county, Arthur J. Lowe, assistant cashier of the Greensburg National Bank, enjoys the distinction of having been the youngest grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias ever elected in this state. He had filled all of the chairs in the grand lodge and had attained the rank of grand chancellor at the early age of thirty-one. He is now one of the five supreme representatives of the Knights of Pythias, one of the most numerous of the fraternal organizations in this country. The Supreme Lodge of Knights of Pythias hold their convention every two years, the last convention having been held at Winnipeg, Canada, and the one previously at Denver, Colorado. Arthur J. Lowe was a representative to both conventions. Aside from the distinction which he enjoys as a prominent member of this great fraternal society, he belongs to one of the oldest and most favorably known of the pioneer families of Decatur county.

Born in Greensburg, Indiana, on February 8, 1877, Arthur J. Lowe is the son of Alfred and Isabelle (Quigley) Lowe, the former of whom was born on May 7, 1826, and who died, September 5, 1887, and the latter of whom was born on May 9, 1835, and who died, December 22, 1910. Mrs. Isabelle (Quigley) Lowe was the daughter of Thomas and Catherine Quigley. Alfred Lowe was the son of Seth and Rebecca Lowe, the former of whom was born in Glenwood, Wilkes county, North Carolina, on December 22, 1787, and who died in Mills county, Iowa, in May, 1871, in his eighty-fourth year. In 1795 he had moved with his father's family to Fayette county,

Kentucky, not far from Lexington, and after living there for some years had moved to Montgomery county, where, in 1810, he had married Rebecca Ryan, who was born in Virginia on October 22, 1790, and who died on February 5, 1865, in her seventy-fifth year. They had seven children, namely: Polly, Matilda, Jackson, George, Eliza, Franklin and Alfred. Eliza, born in 1819, died in her second year.

Seth and Rebecca Lowe, having come to Indiana, settled in Dearborn county in 1819, and two years later moved to Kingston, Decatur county, and there entered land. On his trip to Decatur county, Seth Lowe was accompanied by two of his children, who, after he had done some "deadening," went to Dearborn county for the remainder of the family, leaving the children in the care of two men who were assisting him in the work.

About the time that Seth and Rebecca Lowe came to Decatur county, there came also James and Cyrus Hamilton, the Donnells, the McCoy's and Hopkinses a year or two later. William Custer, who lived about a mile south of the old Lowe homestead at Kingston, is supposed to have preceded Seth and Rebecca Lowe, the founders of the Lowe family in Decatur county, and from whom is sprung Arthur J. Lowe, a prominent banker of Greensburg, Indiana.

Among the first pioneers in Decatur county to plant an orchard was Seth Lowe, and people came great distances to get apples from his orchard. He was truly a temperance man and never used tobacco or intoxicating beverages and never used profane language. A public-spirited citizen, he was ardently favorable to public improvements, such as pikes and railroads, and gave land upon which to build churches and schools. He was among the first citizens of the county to introduce improved breeds of stock, importing choice animals from other states, and from foreign countries. His worthy wife was remembered long after her death. The Lowe house became known far and near for the generous hospitality accorded strangers, and men, weary after a long day's ride in a wagon or on horseback, found shelter from storm and darkness in the Lowe home. Although they were not members of any church, they believed in the kind of christianity set forth and practiced by the lowly Nazarene, and the Reverend Mr. Stegdel is said to have preached in the Lowe home.

In an unbroken forest, was performed the arduous toil upon which the family fortune was builded. Alfred Lowe was a farmer upon the old homestead until his father's death. He was crippled when twenty-eight years old while assisting in the construction of the Kingston church, having fallen and broken a leg. Later he spent one year in the West, after the



homestead was sold, accompanying Seth and Jackson, who were pioneers in the state of Iowa. He, however, went to Kansas and, after a time, returned to Indiana and lived in the village of Kingston until his death. Alfred and Isabelle (Quigley) Lowe had eight children, as follow: Terressa Jane Ardery, wife of David Ardery, of Washington township; Seth Samuel, of Greensburg; Charles, of Kansas; William Walter, deceased; Edward C., a manufacturer of Greensburg; Catherine Ella, the wife of Thomas M. Hamilton, of Kingston; Marsh, of Greensburg, and Arthur J., the youngest member of the family, the assistant cashier of the Greensburg National Bank, and the subject of this sketch.

Reared on the old Lowe homestead in Fugit township, Arthur J. Lowe grew up on the farm and was educated in the common schools of the township. After a time he attended the high school and Greensburg Normal School, when he began teaching. For four years he was engaged in following this profession, and then attended Heeb's Business College at Indianapolis. Returning to Greensburg from Indiana in the fall of 1899, he engaged in banking. On August 1, 1899, he became associated with the Citizens National Bank, where he remained until April 15, 1905, when he was elected assistant cashier of the Greensburg National Bank. Here he has been engaged in the banking business ever since. His own personal integrity and capable business ability have been no small factors in the progress and growth of this bank.

In 1905 Mr. Lowe was married to Eleanor Eich, the daughter of Hubert Eich, who married Catherine Brinkmeyer. The father was a native of Bonn, Germany, who came to Cincinnati, Ohio, when he was seventeen years old. There he engaged in his trade, which was that of a locksmith, and after several years came to Decatur county and settled in Greensburg. Here he followed his trade for many years and was very successful. He was one of the solid and substantial citizens of Decatur county, and at his death, which occurred on April 7, 1915, he left a large estate, which was divided among his children. His wife was a native of Decatur county, her parents' ancestry having been of German extraction. Mr. and Mrs. Lowe have one daughter, Margaret Alice, who was born on May 20, 1909.

The Lowes have a beautiful home in Greensburg where they live in comfort and happiness. Mr. and Mrs. Lowe are members of the Presbyterian church. Fraternally, Mr. Lowe is a member of the Elks lodge, and the Knights of Pythias, as heretofore mentioned. A Republican in politics, he is ardent in his political beliefs and can always be found on the firing line when campaigns come around. Arthur J. Lowe is a worthy representative

of the family in whose veins flow the blood of Seth and Rebecca Lowe. He is a representative citizen not only of Decatur county, but he is representative of her larger interests and her larger connections.

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### RICHARD J. BRADEN.

Richard J. Braden, a retired farmer of Decatur county, who owns one hundred and sixty acres of land two miles northeast of Burney in Clay township and who is now living retired in Greensburg, is one of the well-known and interesting citizens of this county.

Born in Clay township in 1840, he has lived here practically all of his life and, until quite recently, in Clay township. He is the son of Walter and Elizabeth (Mowry) Braden, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky, who came to Decatur county during the early period of its settlement, and entered land here. The Mowrys were natives of Kentucky and an old and prominent family in that state. Walter Braden was identified with the Whig party until the formation of the Republican party, when he became an ardent supporter of the party of Lincoln and remained throughout his life. He had nine children, of whom Richard was the fourth.

Richard J. Braden was twenty-one years old when the Civil War broke out. He responded to the first call for volunteers and enlisted in the Seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, serving for three years. He participated in some of the bloodiest battles of the war and, at the battle of the Wilderness, was wounded. Later, at Fort Republic, he was captured by the Confederates and held a prisoner for three months in Libby prison. There he suffered the most indescribable horrors of prison life. He was mustered out of service as a corporal of Company D, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Colonel Welsh was in command of the regiment. After the war Mr. Braden came home and resumed farming, in which he proved to be very successful.

In 1865 Mr. Braden was married to Ermina Dickinson, the daughter of Amos and Indiana (Palmerton) Dickinson, who were natives of Kentucky and who came to Dearborn county in pioneer times and eventually settled in Decatur county. Mrs. Braden was born shortly after the arrival of her parents in this state in 1844. The Dickinsons became very prosperous in this section of the state, where they were people of power and influence in agricultural circles.

Mr. and Mrs. Braden have had three children, all of whom are living, Charles A., born on August 2, 1866, who is now farming in Clay township; Mrs. Anna Butler, May 19, 1870, who is the wife of Ozro Butler, of Clay township, and Harry, September 3, 1880, of Greensburg, who married Carrie Erhart.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Braden are a happy couple and are spending their declining years in peace and plenty at their comfortable home in Greensburg, to which they moved in 1910. He has always been an enthusiastic and loyal supporter of the principles of the Republican party. Both Mr. and Mrs. Braden are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, Mr. Braden is a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Greensburg. Since the war, his health has not been good and he has had more or less sickness as a consequence of the wound he received at the battle of the Wilderness. Nevertheless, he is a man of happy and philosophical temperament and gladly says that if he could live to be one hundred years old, he would make the best of life and would expect to enjoy the very last minute. Mr. and Mrs. Braden are charming citizens of this city and are highly respected here.

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#### ELMER E. WOODEN.

Since the very beginning of a social order of things in Decatur county, the Woodens have been prominent factors in the development of this community and no volume purporting to carry to posterity the invaluable message of the past, as related to this region, would be complete without special reference to the lives and the achievements of those of the family who, for several generations, have performed well their parts in the upbuilding of this favored region. In 1821, five years after Indiana had been admitted to statehood, Levi Wooden emigrated from Kentucky to this county, settling two miles west of the struggling village of Greensburg. His son, Dr. John L. Wooden, for many years one of the most successful practicing physicians in this county, a surgeon-major in the Union army during the Civil War, and one of the best-loved men that ever lived in this county, was the father of Elmer E. Wooden, whose name stands as a caption for this biographical sketch, a retired merchant of the city of Greensburg, who, following in the footsteps of his honored father and grandfather, performed well his part

during the days of his larger activity in the commercial walks of his home town.

Elmer E. Wooden was born in the city of Milford, Decatur county, Indiana, December 28, 1860, the son of Dr. John L. and Sarah (Guest) Wooden, the former of whom was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, on May 17, 1826, and died at his home in Greensburg, this county, November 28, 1886, the latter of whom was born in Hamilton, Ohio, on August 24, 1835, and is still living at her home in Greensburg.

Dr. John L. Wooden, a native of Shelby county, Kentucky, was the son of Levi and Frances (Wyman) Wooden, the former of whom was a native of that county, and the latter of whom was born at Bingen-on-the-Rhine, Germany. Levi Wooden's parents were among the early settlers in Shelby county, Kentucky. The Wymans emigrated to America from Germany in the year 1818, at a time the daughter, Frances, was fifteen years of age, locating first at Baltimore, Maryland, later emigrating to Shelby county, Kentucky, where Levi Wooden and Frances Wyman were married. In 1821 Levi Wooden came to Indiana, entering land in Decatur county, in Clark county and in Floyd county, making his home in this county, on the homestead four miles west of Greensburg, in Clay township. He became one of the most extensive landowners in this part of the state and was a man of large influence in the formative period of the now well-established farming region. He died in 1840, leaving a large estate and his wife, being a resourceful and energetic woman, carried on the large farming operations with much success. To Levi and Frances (Wyman) Wooden were born four children, John L., father of the immediate subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Barger, who died in Iowa, and Martha, who died in Illinois, and William, who died in Kansas, was a farmer.

When twenty-one years of age, John L. Wooden entered a dry goods store at Milford and for two years followed commercial pursuits, at the end of which time he determined to devote his life to the practice of medicine. He studied in the office of Dr. L. McAllister, at Milford, and in May, 1853, began the practice of his chosen profession at Andersonville, in Franklin county, this state. In the fall of 1859 he entered the Medical College of Ohio, at Cincinnati, from which institution he was graduated on March 1, 1860, thereafter entering the practice of medicine at Milford, this county. In the fall of 1861, Doctor Wooden volunteered his services as an assistant field surgeon for service in the Union army during the Civil War. He was attached to the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Field Surgeon Dr. J. Y. Hitt, with the rank of captain, later being promoted to



the position of field surgeon, with the rank of major, being attached to the Sixty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, on August 18, 1862. On September 17, 1862, at Munfordsville, Kentucky, Doctor Wooden was taken prisoner by the Confederate forces, but was exchanged in the November following when he rejoined his regiment. At the battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863, he again was captured by the Confederates and this time was sent to Libby prison, at which time he weighed one hundred and thirty pounds; when exchanged he weighed but about ninety pounds. After an incarceration of three months in that historic prison, he again was exchanged, when he again rejoined his regiment, and served until the close of the war, becoming brigade surgeon on the staff of General Willich. At the close of the war, Doctor Wooden located in Greensburg, where he spent the remainder of his life, becoming a very successful practitioner and was loved throughout the entire county, where he was devoted to his profession and his practice to him ever was a labor of love, his devotion to humanity being paramount to any question of fees for his services; much of his practice being conducted without regard to money consideration. He was president of the Decatur County Medical Society and for many years served as examining surgeon for the United States pension board in this district.

In 1847, Dr. John L. Wooden was united in marriage to Jane Braden, who died in 1850. On October 13, 1853, Doctor Wooden married, secondly, Sarah Guest, of Milford, this county, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Branson) Guest, natives of Pennsylvania, who located in Hamilton, Ohio, later coming to this county, becoming prominent residents of the Milford neighborhood. Elizabeth Branson was a daughter of David and Sarah (Antrim) Branson, pioneers of this county. Elsewhere in this volume the reader will find set out a genealogy of the Antrim family.

To Dr. John L. and Sarah (Guest) Wooden were born four children, namely: Ida May, who married T. Edgar Hamilton, a well-known resident of this county; Dr. William H., who died in 1900, was graduated from the Ohio Medical College and for many years practiced his profession in Greensburg; Elmer E., the subject of this sketch, of the firm of Bird, Deem & Wooden, hardware merchants, now retired, and Fannie E., who married J. S. Moss, a well-known druggist of Greensburg.

Doctor and Mrs. Wooden were earnest members of the Methodist church, in the faith of which they reared their children. Doctor Wooden was a member and first commander of Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic, had served as commander of that post and also had served as senior vice-commander of the Department of Indiana, Grand Army of

the Republic, being held in the highest esteem by the comrades in all parts of the state. He was a Mason, and for years had served as master of Concordia lodge of that order at Greensburg. He was a Republican and ever took a good citizen's part in local politics, his views on political questions having much weight with the party managers of this county. Doctor Wooden's widow is still living and continues to take a warm interest in social and church affairs in Greensburg. She was reared a Quakeress, being a birthright member of that church, but for many years has been devoted to the work of the Methodist church, of which she is an active member. She is a member of the Department Club at Greensburg and retains a hearty interest in the affairs of that useful organization. She has hosts of admiring friends and no woman in the county is held in higher respect than she.

Elmer E. Wooden was educated in the Greensburg schools and at eighteen years of age left the high school and graduated to take a place as a clerk in the hardware store of O. P. Shriver & Company, at Greensburg, continuing in that position for seven years, at the end of which time Mr. Schriver moved to Cincinnati to engage in the same form of business and Mr. Wooden accompanied him, remaining in Cincinnati for seven years. He then returned to Greensburg and engaged in the hardware business with O. P. Schriver, under the firm name of O. P. Schriver & Company, which firm was maintained for four years, at the end of which time Mr. Schriver withdrew, and the firm was continued under the name of Bird, Deem & Wooden, this arrangement continuing from 1894 to 1900. In the latter year the firm became Bird, Meek & Wooden. In 1901 Mr. Bird withdrew from the firm, which was continued under the name of Meek & Wooden until July 9, 1913, at which time the company was dissolved, Mr. Wooden retiring from active business.

On May 7, 1905, Elmer E. Wooden was united in marriage to Della Mount, of Shelby county, daughter of Thomas J. Mount, a member of one of the pioneer families of Shelby county, a general history of which family is presented elsewhere in this volume in the biographical sketch relating to H. H. Mount. To Mr. and Mrs. Wooden have been born, Herschel, on December 31, 1907; Mary Elizabeth, October 10, 1909, and James Edgar, December 24, 1910.

Mrs. Wooden owns a fine arm west of Milford, the old Butler place, and Mr. Wooden gives much of his time to the active supervision of this farm. Mr. and Mrs. Wooden are active members of the First Methodist church of Greensburg, and their children are being reared in that faith. Mr. Wooden is a Republican and is a member of Greensburg Lodge No. 36,

Free and Accepted Masons; Lodge No. 346, Knights of Pythias, and Decatur Lodge No. 103, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His many years' connection with the commercial interests of Greensburg gives to his opinions regarding the advancement of the best interests of the city and county much value and he is regarded as one of the most public-spirited citizens in that city. Mrs. Wooden takes a prominent part in the social affairs of the city and is a valued member of the well-known Department Club of Greensburg, being a leader in the musical section of that important organization. She and her husband are very popular with their friends and are held in the highest regard by all.

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### SUTHERLAND MCCOY.

As stated in many other places in this volume, the McCoy family was among the first to settle in Decatur county, Indiana, Andra McCoy, who lived first in Virginia and then in Kentucky, having come to Decatur county in 1823. As one of the pioneers in Decatur county, he attained considerable prominence in the political and civic life of this county, having served a period of several years before the Civil War as county commissioner, and his name is to be found today on the west front of the Decatur county court house. Sutherland McCoy, one of the second generation of McCoy's in Decatur county, more than a quarter of a century later filled the same office, and the latter having in the decade before the Civil War served as an Indiana fighter in the West, at the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted as a soldier and made for himself a brilliant record as a private soldier.

The late Sutherland McCoy, public-spirited citizen and farmer, who owned at the time of his death three hundred and eighty-seven acres of fine farming land in Decatur county, was born, November 8, 1829, on the farm where the McCoy children are now living, and died, April 5, 1906. He was the son of Andra, who, the son of Daniel, the son of William, was born, December 20, 1789, at Wheeling Creek, Virginia, and who moved to Nicholas county, Kentucky, in 1791, and to Decatur county, Indiana, in 1823. A splendid farmer and a good mechanic, as well as a pioneer horse breeder, he settled on the farm where his grandson and granddaughter now live. On January 15, 1818, Andra McCoy was married in Kentucky to Margaret Hopkins, who was born, September 29, 1793, and who died, August 27, 1851. Andra, himself, died, July 14, 1871. His wife taught the first Sabbath school in Fugit township at Mt. Carmel. This school probably was the first



SUTHERLAND, BENJAMIN M. AND JUSTUS B. MCCOY.





ever conducted in Decatur county. She was the mother of nine children, Columbus, George W., John H., Kate, Parthena E., the wife of David L. Miller, Sutherland, Benjamin M., Amanda and Justus Barton.

The present residence of the McCoys on the old McCoy homestead, which is a substantial and attractive dwelling, was built by Sutherland McCoy, Andra having built and lived in a log house. The latter, who was a strong man, an industrious worker and an enterprising citizen, was eminently respected during his day and generation by the people of Decatur county, and being elected as a county commissioner of this county in 1853, served thereafter a term of six years.

The late Sutherland McCoy, who was the seventh child born to his parents, Andra and Margaret (Hopkins) McCoy, pioneers of this county, crossed the plains to the Pacific coast in 1852, shortly after reaching his majority, proceeding with a company of sixty-three men from Shasta Valley, to which place they had gone to drive back the Indians. After being actively engaged for a period of thirty-three days, during which the party participated in many thrilling exploits, they returned with only twenty-seven of the original party of sixty-three men, thirty-six having been killed and wounded. Sutherland McCoy himself was wounded in the neck by an Indian arrow.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Sutherland McCoy responded to one of the early calls for volunteers and enlisted in Company G, Seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry. During the war he was engaged in many severe battles, among which were those of South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Rappahannock, Gettysburg, Thorough Gay, Mine Run, etc.

Returning from the war, Sutherland McCoy settled down to the peaceful pursuit of agriculture, and about ten years after the close of the Civil War was married, May 25, 1875, to Priscilla Kincaid, who was born, October 1, 1847, in Decatur county, Indiana. Four children were born to bless this marriage, one of whom, the third child, Mary J., who was born, June 5, 1883, died, September 5, 1899. Of the three living children, Ella was born, May 5, 1877. Amanda, who was born, January 27, 1880, was married, March 13, 1901, to Clyde William Kitchin, who was born in January, 1879, in Decatur county, Indiana. They now reside on a farm in Rush county, Indiana, and have five children, May Florence, born December 10, 1901; Martha Amanda, born November 5, 1903; Ruth and Ruby, twins, born June 4, 1907, and Clara Margaret, November 4, 1913. John Andra, the youngest child of Sutherland and Priscilla McCoy, was born, April 14, 1887, and after graduating from the Clarksburg high school, April 13, 1904, took up farming

on the old homestead, and so far as a son is able to follow in the footsteps of a worthy father, John Andra is doing this.

For almost a half century the late Sutherland McCoy was one of the leaders of the Democratic party of Decatur county. His judgment as an organization man was admitted to be of a superior order, and, possessed as he was of a genial and cordial manner, he was able to rely for his strength upon his own personality. Between 1882 and 1886 he served as county commissioner of Decatur county, filling the same office his father had so well filled before him. Religiously, the McCoy's are devout members of the Springhill Presbyterian church. The late Sutherland McCoy, who was a member of the Clarksburg Masonic lodge, took a great interest in the welfare of this order.

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#### CHARLES WILLIAM WOODWARD.

The Citizen's National Bank, of Greensburg, Indiana, which was organized as a private bank in 1866, is the oldest financial institution in the city of Greensburg. The bank having been organized by David Lovett, Levi P. Lathrop and Samuel Christy, on October 9, 1871, it was created a national bank with David Lovett as its first president, and Samuel Christy as its first cashier. These positions were later held by the Hon. Will Cumback and Louis E. Lathrop, now of Indianapolis, who filled all the offices in the institution, which at present are filled by James B. Lathrop, as president; S. P. Minear, of the Minear Dry Goods Company, vice-president, and Charles W. Woodward as cashier. The directors include Messrs. James B. Lathrop, S. P. Minear, John W. Lovett, Louis E. Lathrop, John H. Christian, C. W. Woodward and F. D. Bird.

Charles W. Woodward, who has been connected with the Citizens National Bank since 1879, a period of thirty-six years, was appointed assistant cashier on January 14, 1890, and cashier on January 8, 1901, and since then the career of Mr. Woodward has been identified with this bank, a period including practically his entire active life. This bank has a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, average deposits of three hundred thousand dollars and surplus and undivided profits of fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Woodward not only has been connected with the Citizens National Bank for thirty-six years, but he has lived in Greensburg all his life, with the exception of his youth, which was spent at Adams, Decatur county, Indiana.

Charles W. Woodward was born on July 18, 1854, at Greensburg,

Indiana, the son of Isaac L. and Christe Ann (Jackson) Woodward, the former of whom was born in Kentucky on June 3, 1830, and who died on November 1, 1914, and the latter of whom was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, the daughter of William Jackson, a pioneer citizen of Decatur county, and a native of Virginia. Isaac L. was a son of Charles Woodward, who settled on a farm west of Greensburg in 1832, eventually became a druggist and merchant at Adams, in this county, afterwards becoming a gardener before he retired from active life, when he removed to Greensburg, Indiana. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having served in Company G, Seventy-sixth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for thirty days. He was a Republican in politics, and was identified with the Baptist church. His wife, who is now deceased, was a daughter of a pioneer farmer, who came from his native state of Virginia to Cincinnati in an early day, later coming to Decatur county, where he was a farmer in the pioneer days. He died in Greensburg after a long and useful life.

Charles William Woodward was reared at Adams, the eldest of a family of ten children, three who died in infancy, the others, who live at Greensburg, Indiana, being Frank, a drayman; Mrs. George W. Magee, the wife of a dry goods merchant; Mrs. F. R. Christman, whose husband is a merchant; Ion L., a merchant; Mrs. James Porter, who lives on a farm three miles from that place, and Mrs. D. A. West, the wife of a merchant.

Charles W. Woodward received his education in the schools of Adams, and was one of the first bookkeepers for the Greensburg Woolen Mills, having worked for Arthur Hutchinson for two years. Later he became a clerk for John Emmert, and a bookkeeper in a grain elevator for two and one-half years, after which he also spent six months working in a grocery store. Entering the Citizens National Bank as a bookkeeper on May 26, 1879, his rise to the position of assistant cashier in 1890, and to that of cashier in 1901, has already been related.

Mr. Woodward was married on May 12, 1880, to Candace Coy, who was a native of Greensburg, and a daughter of Matthew Coy, a pioneer resident of Greensburg, now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Woodward are the parents of one son, Arthur Coy, born on August 18, 1890, is now a student at Cornell University, of Ithaca, New York. He is a graduate of the Greensburg high school, and also of DePauw University. At Cornell he is taking an engineer course. Arthur C. Woodward was married to Hazel Ayres, of Greencastle, Indiana, and they are now living in Ithaca.

Identified as he is with one of the leading financial institutions of Greensburg and Decatur county, Mr. Woodward is, of course, well known



to the people of this county. As a banker he has had no small part in its growth and prosperity, and it may be truly said that as cashier of this institution he enjoys the confidence not only of the board of directors and officers, but also of the patrons of the bank, with whom he is exceedingly popular.

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### SHERMAN B. HITT, M. D.

Devoted to the noble work which his profession implies, the late Sherman B. Hitt, M. D., of Greensburg, by faithful and indefatigable service not only earned the due reward of his efforts in a material way, but proved himself eminently worthy to practice his great profession. He was a man of abiding sympathy, and his earnest zeal in behalf of his fellow men made him a popular resident of Decatur county. His understanding of the science of medicine was regarded by his patients, by his fellows in the medical profession as broad and comprehensive, and he earned for himself a distinguished place among the physicians of Decatur county.

The late Dr. Sherman B. Hitt, who was born on January 15, 1854, in Louisville, Kentucky, and who died, September 25, 1911, in Greensburg, was the son of Dr. John Y. Hitt, himself a well-known physician in two states. Dr. Sherman B. Hitt's mother was, before her marriage, Martha Ann Logan and was the daughter of Samuel Logan, one of the earliest of the pioneers of Decatur county, who came here with Thomas Ireland, whose life work is referred to repeatedly in this volume.

John Y. Hitt was born in Sullivan, Illinois, and was the son of Joel and Sarah Hitt, the former of whom, a farmer by occupation, was born on November 7, 1798, and who lived and died in the state of Kentucky, where he was a large landowner and slaveholder. His family is of English origin. Joel Hitt was one of a family of ten children, there being seven sons and three daughters. He was married in 1817. After practicing his profession for a number of years at Sullivan, Illinois, the late Dr. John Y. Hitt came to Greensburg to live about 1901, and died there on April 14, 1914. He and his wife, Martha Anne (Logan) Hitt had two children, Joel and Dr. Sherman B.

Sherman B. Hitt was educated for his profession at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he spent four years at one of the post-graduate institutions of Berlin, Germany. After practicing his profession for five years in Cincinnati, Ohio, he came to Greensburg, Indiana, and here he built up a large

and profitable practice and was highly esteemed and widely honored not only by his fellows in the medical profession, but by the public generally.

Dr. Sherman B. Hitt was married, May 9, 1895, to Mary S. Smith, a daughter of John H. and Mary Jane (Parant) Smith, the former of whom was a native of Jefferson county, Indiana, and one of a large family. Beginning life on a farm he became a successful farmer and owned a large tract of land in Decatur county. During the latter years of his life he lived in Columbus, Indiana, and died in that city. Mrs. Mary (Smith) Hitt was educated in the common and high schools of Decatur county and at Notre Dame University, located near South Bend, Indiana. She is a woman not only of wide information and of rare native intelligence, but a woman of refined and cultured habit, one who is popular in the social life of this city. As the result of her marriage to the late Sherman B. Hitt, one daughter, Gladys, was born on May 9, 1896, in Greensburg. Miss Hitt was educated in the common schools of Decatur county, and later pursued her academic work at Moores Hill College. Finally she entered the conservatory of music at Cincinnati and was a student there for three years, during which she completed the regular four years' course in vocal and instrumental music. Miss Hitt is a young woman of prominence in musical and social circles in the city of Greensburg.

Although the work of the late Dr. Sherman B. Hitt is finished, his influence goes on not only in the life of the members of his family, but also in the larger community where his work was done, since he was a man in whom the public placed implicit trust and confidence.

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#### LAFAYETTE FORD.

Lafayette Ford, a retired railroad man and well-known citizen of Greensburg, was born on February 1, 1841, on a farm in Washington township, the son of Johnson and Eliza (Waters) Ford, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in 1818, and died 1906, and the latter of whom was born in 1819, and died in 1851. She was the daughter of William Waters, a native of Kentucky and an early settler who became wealthy, owning a large tract of land in this section and large herds of live stock. Johnson Ford was a son of Bailey Ford, who was born and reared in North Carolina, and who became a follower of Daniel Boone, a pioneer in the state of Kentucky. He moved to Decatur county from Kentucky in the early

thirties, purchasing a farm in Washington township, two miles east of Greensburg. Johnson Ford settled on a farm, immediately after his marriage, known as the Waters farm, and after the Waters estate was settled up, he removed to Hendricks county. He died suddenly on the streets of Indianapolis. Of his eight children, four are now deceased, Alfred died in the service of his country during the Civil War; James died in Nebraska; the third born, was Mrs. Mary Smith; Mrs. Malinda McKee died near Brownsburg; Arnold lives at Miami, Indiana; William lives in Detroit, Michigan; Mrs. Ida Smith lives in Brownsburg, Indiana, and Lafayette is the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Ford is a veteran of the Civil War, having enlisted on President Lincoln's first call for volunteers on April 14, 1861. He served in Company F, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for three months and was engaged in the first battle on Cheat river, where the first rebel general was killed. Upon his second enlistment, September 9, 1861, he became a soldier in Company E, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served for three years. During this period he served under Capt. M. C. Conett, and Col. George W. Hazard, a brutal officer who was cashiered, and thereafter was succeeded by Colonel Gazely, who was also cashiered. He was succeeded by Colonel Hull, who was wounded, and who was succeeded by Colonel Ward, now an attorney at Versailles. The principal engagements in which Mr. Ford served were the battles of Stone's River, Chickamauga, siege of Atlanta, and many skirmishes and minor battles. He was mustered out of service, October 4, 1864.

After the war, Mr. Ford returned home to Decatur county, and farmed in Washington township for one year, and then farmed near Peru, Indiana, for about seven years. Subsequently, he engaged in railroading as express messenger and baggage man on the Wabash railroad for thirty-five years. In 1912, he retired, and in October of that year removed to Greensburg, where he has since been living.

In 1868, Mr. Ford was first married to Louisiana Isabelle Johnson, of Decatur county, the daughter of William P. Johnson, an early settler of the county, who bore him one child, Dr. Walter D. Ford, a well-known physician of Detroit, Michigan, who married Clara M. Dean. Mr. Ford lived in Detroit during his long service on the railroad.

On October 17, 1912, Mr. Ford was again married to Mrs. Elizabeth Ann (Guest) Perry, of Decatur county, who was born on November 14, 1843, in Clay township, and is the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Branson)

Guest, natives of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, respectively, who first settled in Ohio, and from Ohio came to Indiana in the late thirties.

John and Elizabeth (Branson) Guest have nine children: Thomas, born on March 18, 1827; Hannah, January 5, 1829, and died on June 14, 1869; David, March 28, 1831, and died on October 23, 1855; Stephen, June 6, 1833, died on July 26, 1847; Sarah, August 24, 1835, married Dr. Wooden; Mary, May 17, 1838, died on October 12, 1852; Moses, November 16, 1840, died on August 24, 1853; Elizabeth A., November 14, 1843, is the present wife of Mr. Ford; Louisa J., October 27, 1846.

Elizabeth (Branson) Guest, the wife of John Guest and the mother of the above named children, was a daughter of David and Sarah (Antrim) Branson. The Antrim family was a very famous family, not only in this country, but abroad. The first of the Antrims to settle in this country was John Antrim, who received a large grant of land from the English king. James, the direct ancestor of Mrs. Ford, and a brother of John, purchased land from him. The family was originally of Irish extraction, and probably belonged to the landed gentry class of County Antrim, Ireland. They, as well as the Bransons, were Quakers. A genealogical history of the family has been issued by people at Burlington, New Jersey. An old Friends church built in the blockhouse at High street, Burlington, was the house of worship of the Antrims of that city. James Antrim, a brother of John Antrim, heretofore referred to, came to America from England, and settled in Mansfield township, New Jersey, some time between 1678 and 1680. His son, James, had a son, James, whose daughter, Sarah, was born on October 7, 1764, and who died, July 23, 1821. She married David Branson, heretofore referred to.

Mrs. Lafayette Ford was first married to Walliam S. Perry, who was born in Decatur county, 1834, and who died, April 10, 1911.

A Republican in politics, the venerable Lafayette Ford is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a member of Zion Lodge No. 1, Free and Accepted Masons, of Detroit, Michigan. His career has been long and honorable, and he is glad to spend his last days in the county of his birth, where his early friendships were formed, and where lived many people whom he dearly loved. In some respects Mr. Ford's life has appeared to be a charmed one. During his valiant service as a soldier in the Civil War, he received seven bullet holes in his clothing, but was never wounded. In fact, these entire seven narrow escapes were all incidents of the battle of Stone's River. Moreover, he took part in the one hundred and four days of con-



tinuous fighting from Chattanooga to Atlanta, and here he also escaped. Mr. and Mrs. Ford are splendid people, intelligent, well informed, sociable and hospitable. Both are well preserved and enjoy the best of health.

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### ROLLIN A. TURNER.

Rollin A. Turner, a member of the law firm of Treemain & Turner, and a graduate of the Harvard law school in 1907, is the son of a pioneer Methodist minister of this section of Indiana, and himself one of the brilliant young men of the fourth congressional district.

Mr. Turner has been well prepared for the practice of law. Aside from graduating from the public schools of Greensburg and from the Greensburg high school in 1900, he pursued for four years an academic course at DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, and received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from this institution. After graduating from DePauw in 1904 he entered Harvard University in the fall of that year, and for three years was a student of the law department, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1907. Hundreds of young men enter the Harvard law school every year, but comparatively few of them remain to graduate, on account of the very high standard of the institution. It is impossible for the derelict or the stupid, or for the brilliant young man who refuses or declines to study, to get a diploma from this institution, and it is a mark of distinction to any young man that he holds a diploma from the Harvard law school, for practically half of the freshman class is dropped at the end of the first semester, because of failure to maintain the standard of studentship required by this institution.

The firm of Treemain & Turner within a comparatively brief period has built up an extensive practice, not only in Decatur county, but in the courts of other counties adjoining Decatur, and in the state and federal courts as well. Rollin A. Turner is not only a profound student of the law, well learned in legal principles and well informed in present day jurisprudence, but he is what is commonly called a successful practitioner in court, and his success has been builded upon careful and painstaking study of the minutest details involved in every case presented to him. He never goes into the court room unprepared, and his habits in this particular are not difficult to explain. Careful and methodical work was required of him during the time he was a student of the law.

Rollin A. Turner was born, July 26, 1881, at Laurel in Franklin county.

Indiana, the son of the Rev. J. W. and Lizzie (Woodfill) Turner, the former of whom was a native of Indiana, and the latter of whom was a daughter of William S. Woodfill, one of the pioneer citizens and business men of Decatur county. Of Rollin Turner's ancestry it may be said, that the Rev. J. W. Turner was a son of Rev. Isaac Turner, one of the pioneer Methodist ministers of southeastern Indiana, and himself a native of England, whose wife was Alice Turner, and who came to America in 1854. The Rev. J. W. Turner, who now resides on a farm in Decatur county, spent thirty years in the ministry of the Methodist church, retiring in 1905, and locating on his present farm. He was born, August 11, 1857, in Dearborn county, Indiana, and was graduated from Moores Hill College with the class of 1878, receiving, later, the degree of Master of Arts and Doctor of Divinity. He was married in 1880 to Lizzie Woodfill. During his career as a minister, he was located at the Trinity church, of Madison, Indiana, the Irvington church, at Indianapolis, the Trinity church at Louisville, the Trinity church at Evansville, and, finally, was presiding elder of the Evansville district, and pastor of St. Paul's church at Rushville when he retired.

Of the mother of Rollin Turner, who, before her marriage to Rev. J. W. Turner, was Lizzie Woodfill, it may be said that she is the daughter of William S. and Sarah A. (Talbot) Woodfill, the latter of whom was the daughter of H. H. Talbot, the first clerk of Decatur county. William S. and Sarah (Talbot) Woodfill had four children, Elizabeth, who married the Rev. Mr. Turner, was the eldest. The others are, William Wirt, of Greensburg; Harry Talbot, who is superintendent of the Greensburg gas and electric plant, and Web Woodfill, secretary and treasurer of the Greensburg Gas and Electric Company. William S. Woodfill passed away, July 25, 1899, and his wife, the mother of Mrs. J. W. Turner, died, October 31, 1898. The former was born in Owen county, Kentucky, November 16, 1825, and was the son of Gabriel and Eleanor (Pullam) Woodfill, of Welsh and English extraction, the Woodfill family having been established in Pennsylvania in early colonial days. The Rev. Gabriel Woodfill, the great-grandfather of William S. Woodfill, emigrated from Pennsylvania to Kentucky, and moved from Shelby county, Kentucky, to Jefferson county, Indiana, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a minister in the Methodist church in Kentucky and Indiana, and a man of large influence in the pioneer communities. Andrew Woodfill, the son of Rev. Gabriel Woodfill, and the grandfather of William S. Woodfill, was born in Pennsylvania, and spent most of his life at Madison, Indiana, where he entered government land, and where he was married to a Miss Mitchell. He and his wife had twelve children, eight of whom lived to maturity. Gabriel Woodfill, one of the sons of Andrew Woodfill, and the

father of William S. Woodfill, was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, in 1800, and though he emigrated from Kentucky to Indiana with his parents, he later returned to Kentucky and there was a farmer and tavern keeper. He came to Greensburg, Indiana, November 16, 1830, and here during his life took a prominent part in the financial and commercial life of Decatur county, subsequently establishing a general mercantile store, which has been under the management of the Woodfill family for almost a century. Gabriel Woodfill's first wife was Eleanor Pullam, who bore him three children, Andrew, William S., the father of Mrs. J. W. Turner, and Mary, who married Henry Christian. Upon the death of his first wife, Gabriel Woodfill married Elizabeth Van Pelt, daughter of Joseph Van Pelt, and there were three children by this second union, James M., John, deceased, and Catherine, the wife of Rev. James Crawford. The store with which William S. Woodfill became associated in 1825, after his death was operated under the name of W. S. Woodfill's son, and is now under the individual management of W. W. Woodfill.

The Rev. J. W. and Mrs. Elizabeth (Woodfill) Turner have had seven children: Rollin A., the subject of this sketch, is the eldest; Sarah married Louis C. Uhl, of Huntingburg; Lieut. William W. Turner, of the United States navy, is stationed at Annapolis, Maryland; Harry D., James W., Jr., Rachel and Welwirt live on the home farm.

Rollin A. Turner was married, June 1, 1910, to Lillian Hill, of Greensburg, the daughter of W. J. and Lillian Hill, old residents of Greensburg. The former, a native of Ireland, is a traveling salesman for Young, Smythe, Field & Company, of Philadelphia, and has resided in Greensburg for the past thirty-five years. He is a well-to-do and substantial citizen, who has extensive property interests in real estate and business blocks in this city.

In 1914, Rollin A. Turner was nominated by the fourth district convention as the Republican candidate for congress in this district. Although he made a most vigorous fight, the fourth district is strongly Democratic, and Mr. Turner was defeated, but he is, today, one of the leaders of the Republican party in the fourth district, and is one of the counsellors of the party in state politics. Mr. Turner is a member of the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church, of Greensburg, while Mrs. Turner is a member of St. Mary's Catholic church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. At college, Mr. Turner was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Greek letter fraternity, as well as other Greek letter societies, local in their membership.

## JOSEPH PATTERSON.

Of the many retired farmers living in Greensburg, Indiana, who have been successful in their life's vocation, mention must be made of Joseph Patterson, a native of County Antrim, Ireland, who was born on July 12, 1839, the son of Roger and Mary Jane (Hall) Patterson.

Roger Patterson, after immigrating to America, in 1845, to find a home for his family, located in Clinton township, Decatur county, Indiana, where he rented land for a short time, and, in 1847, the family, consisting of a wife and two sons, John and Joseph, joined the husband and father. Roger Patterson died when he was thirty-seven years old, in 1855, leaving a wife and two children, who, at that time, were living in Clinton township. John was killed in the second battle of Bull Run. The mother, who was married again to Michael Ryan, had three children by the second marriage, Mrs. Sallie Meek, William and Mrs. Katie Lanham, all of whom are living at Greensburg, Indiana. The mother of these children died at an advanced age.

During the Civil War, hogs sold for a considerable period for ten dollars a hundredweight, and it was during this time that the venerable Joseph Patterson purchased his farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He raised a great many hogs, and, being successful with them, was soon able to pay for his land. Beginning with nothing, he took advantage of the opportunities offered and soon made good, prior to which time he had rented and for several years in Clinton township. His farm is now well improved and very valuable. In 1905 Mr. Patterson moved to Greensburg.

In September, 1857, when he was eighteen years old, Joseph Patterson was first married to Mary Bird, the daughter of William and Maria Bird, natives of Kentucky and Virginia, respectively, who moved to Decatur county, Indiana, in the late twenties. They reared a family of eight children: Harvey, who married Sarah Lowe; Mrs. Martha Anna Johnson; Benjamin, who married a Miss Small; Henry, who married a Miss Davidson; Edwin, who married Charlotte Powers; Harriett, the wife of William Sefton; Mary, the wife of a Mr. Patterson, and Minerva, who first married Jacob Hickman and had four children, Luna, William, deceased; Martha, the wife of Charles S. Reed, who lives in Washington township, and Mrs. Ottawa Baumgarten, who lives in Greensburg. Mrs. Mary Patterson was born on July 31, 1839, and died on May 1, 1908. Four years after her death, Mr. Patterson was again married to Minerva, the sister of his first wife, the marriage taking place on December 9, 1912.



To Joseph and Mary (Bird) Patterson were born seven children, all of whom are still living, Mrs. Maria Jane Robison, who lives near Adams and has one child, Millicent; Harriet Elizabeth, who is the wife of J. L. Hamilton and has one child, Cora; Mrs. Nora Olive Ford, who lives at Greensburg and has one child, Mary; John William, of Clinton township, who married Lou Hazelrigg and has three sons, William, Van and Daniel; James, who married Margaret Goddard and lives on the old home place; Charles, of near Adams, who married Dessa Guthrie and has one child, Charles Guthrie, and Mrs. Ina Anderson, of Greensburg. Mr. Patterson died on May 19, 1915, at the age of seventy-six years.

Although Mr. Patterson was a Republican all of his life, in 1912 he voted the Democratic national ticket, supporting the Democratic candidate, now the President of this country, Woodrow Wilson. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Greensburg.

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#### WILLIAM M. MCCOY.

William M. McCoy, a retired farmer of Greensburg, Indiana, who removed from his farm one and one-half miles southeast of Greensburg, in September, 1914, to that city, was born on January 16, 1832, in Washington county, Indiana, and is the son of Alexander and Prudence (Armstrong) McCoy, natives of Kentucky and Indiana, respectively, the former of whom was born on October 18, 1794, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of whom was born on November 2, 1809, and who died, January 31, 1857. Alexander McCoy, a representative of the third generation of the McCoy family in America, removed with his parents to Bourbon county, Kentucky, from Washington, Pennsylvania, when a small child, and there was reared, coming to Decatur county, Indiana, from Washington county, Indiana, December 25, 1833. He died on his farm near Kingston, June 1, 1877. He was married to Prudence Armstrong, January 4, 1831, in Washington county, Indiana, where he was a charter member of the Kingston Presbyterian church, and at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of this church was the only surviving charter member.

Alexander and Prudence (Armstrong) McCoy had nine children, the names of whom follow in the order of their birth: William M. McCoy, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest child born to his parents and first saw the light of day at Salem, in Washington county, Indiana; Leander Aretas,

who was born on March 14, 1834, died on August 7, 1900; Sarepta, June 20, 1836, married William Franklin Cox, a soldier in the Civil War, and they lived at Montrose, Illinois, both are deceased; Daniel Judson, August 8, 1839, was killed in the battle of the Wilderness; James Burney, August 8, 1839, a twin of Daniel Judson, died on October 17 of the same year; Philonadus, June 3, 1843, deceased, lived in Indianapolis, Indiana; Orpheus, January 8, 1846, died on March 3, 1904; Milissa, March 29, 1849, died on July 17, 1851; Cassius C., July 25, 1852, lives at Greensburg, Indiana. Two children, therefore, out of this family of nine, are still living.

Alexander McCoy, who, for the purpose of this sketch, may be designated Alexander II., was the son of Alexander McCoy I., the latter of whom was born in Scotland, in 1753, and who married Nancy Campbell, in 1780, eight years after coming to this country. He and his wife had six children born in Pennsylvania, and five children born in Kentucky. Those born in Pennsylvania were John C. William, Daniel, Angus C., Margaret and Alexander. In 1794, the family removed to Bourbon county, Kentucky, and after their removal, there were born, Jane, Mary, George, James and Campbell.

Alexander McCoy I. was the son of William McCoy, the founder of the family in America, who was born in Sutherlandshire, Scotland, in 1730, and emigrated to America, settling on the east shore of Maryland in 1772, and later removed to Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania. His remains are buried at Ruddles Mills cemetery in Bourbon county, Kentucky.

William Martin McCoy, the subject of this sketch, was married on November 2, 1871, to Mary Jane Jones, who was born on December 25, 1844, in Cincinnati, and who is the daughter of Roland and Catherine (Hughes) Jones, natives of Wales, who came to this country from Cardiganshire before their marriage in 1840. They lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, where the father was a stationary engineer, and where he lived and died. He was born in 1820, and died in October, 1875. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Catherine Hughes, was born in 1822, and died in 1850. They had three children, John, of Bellevue, Kentucky; Mrs. Mary Jane McCoy, and Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, of Hyde Park, Cincinnati.

To Mr. and Mrs. William M. McCoy have been born three children, Minnie Prudence, Ralph Evans and Robert. Of these children Minnie was born on October 10, 1872, and married Carl Hendrick, who was born on November 22, 1870. They had three children, Ralph, who was born on November 12, 1899; William Boland, December 11, 1901, and Rose Eualine, October 29, 1904, at Terre Haute, Indiana. They reside in Indianapolis; Ralph Evans, who was born on June 20, 1878, lives on the home farm east

of Greensburg. He married Daisy Barnes and they have one child, William Frederick; Robert, who was born on April 16, 1880, was a civil engineer until his death, October 30, 1914.

After his marriage, Mr. McCoy settled at McCoy Station, where he rented one hundred and forty acres of land for two years. At the end of this period he purchased one hundred and sixty acres near Kingston, and lived there for nearly two years, when he moved to another farm one and one-half miles southeast of Greensburg, consisting of ninety-six acres of well-improved land. In September, 1914, Mr. and Mrs. McCoy removed to Greensburg.

William M. McCoy is a Republican in politics, and Mr. and Mrs. McCoy are both members of the Presbyterian church, as are the other members of their family. They are well known and highly respected not only in Greensburg, but in Decatur county.

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#### DAN S. PERRY.

Among the strongest financial institutions in the city of Greensburg is the Greensburg National Bank, of which Dan S. Perry has been cashier for several years, having entered the bank in July, 1900, at its organization, as assistant cashier. The Greensburg National Bank began business with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, but on November 5, 1906, its capital was raised to seventy-five thousand dollars, and it now has a surplus of twenty-five thousand dollars, undivided profits of seven thousand dollars, and average deposits of three hundred thousand dollars. James M. Woodfill has been president since its organization. Mr. Perry, who was the original assistant cashier, succeeded J. B. Kitchum as cashier in 1904. The other officers are Will H. Robbins, vice-president, and A. J. Lowe, assistant cashier. Messrs. Robbins, D. A. Myers, C. P. Miller, Oliver Deem, J. B. Kitchin and John H. Deniston constitute the board of directors. The correspondent banks are the Fifth-Third National, of Cincinnati; the Indiana National, of Indianapolis; the National Bank of Commerce, of New York City, and the Federal Reserve Bank, of Chicago, the Greensburg National being a member of the Federal Reserve Associated Banks.

The popular and efficient cashier of the Greensburg National Bank is descended from an old family of this section, his grandfather, Dan S. Perry, having settled in Washington township, Decatur county, in 1824. Here

he purchased land, and after clearing a small tract, erected a log cabin. Dan S. Perry, who was a soldier in the War of 1812, and who had moved from the ancestral home in Virginia to the state of Kentucky, was the son of Frederick Perry, a member of the personal body-guard of General Washington during the Revolutionary War. Dan S. Perry is, therefore, descended from Revolutionary ancestry and is himself of militant and patriotic stock. Born in July, 1873, on a farm in Decatur county, Dan S. is the son of Leonard and Cinderella (Boyce) Perry, the former a native of Kentucky, who had come with his father, Dan S. Perry, Sr., from Kentucky to Washington township, Decatur county, in 1824, and the latter of whom was a native of Indiana, and reared in Decatur county. Leonard Perry, who lived on the ancestral farm for sixty years, was born in 1824, and died in February, 1909. His wife, who died in 1873, left a family of nine children, as follow: Dina P. Craig, of Greensburg; Will L. and Louisa, of Greensburg; Squire D., who lives on a farm east of Greensburg; George S., who lives on the old home place; Mrs. Chester Edkins, of Greensburg; Allen M. and Pierce, deceased, and Dan S., the subject of this sketch.

Dan S. Perry during his youth and early manhood enjoyed the educational advantages which the schools of Decatur county afforded. After having finished the course in the country schools, he attended Greensburg high school, and when eighteen years old became a student in one of the leading Cincinnati business colleges. After finishing the course in the business college, he returned to Greensburg and studied law in the office of D. A. Miers for six years. Two years of this period he served as court stenographer. Upon the organization of the Greensburg National Bank, in 1900, Mr. Perry became assistant cashier, and four years later succeeded to the office of cashier, a position which he has held ever since, a period of eleven years.

Mr. Perry was married on November 30, 1893, to Elsie Russell, daughter of Richard Russell, of Decatur county. Mr. and Mrs. Perry have had one son, Russell Myers, who is now twenty years old, and who is a student in the American School of Osteopathy at Kirksville, Missouri.

A Republican in politics, Dan S. Perry has never been prominent in political work, although he has always maintained a keen interest in good government and in the election of capable men in public office. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

As a banker, Dan S. Perry is regarded as a man with few peers and no superiors in Decatur county. The growth and present prosperous condition



of the Greensburg National Bank are due to the wise and efficient management of its board of directors and especially its officers. Mr. Perry has never been found wanting in any test which has been imposed upon him. He has safe-guarded the interests of the bank, and at the same time his cordial relations with the patrons of the bank have brought substantial increases in business year by year. Honorable and upright in all of the relations of life, private and public, he possesses the confidence of the people and enjoys their respect as a private citizen.

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### JOSEPH W. GARRISON.

The late Joseph W. Garrison, the son of David and Mary (Fugit) Garrison, was descended on his mother's side from the very first settlers of Decatur county, Indiana. His grandfather, Judge John Fugit, who was born in the mountains of Russell county, Virginia, in 1770, came in March, 1819, with Guffy Griffiths and Elias Janett from Franklin county to Decatur county, Indiana, and settled one mile east of the present site of Clarksburg at the forks of the road. John Fugit, after his marriage, had moved to Floyd county, Kentucky, from Virginia and from Floyd county, in 1808, to Hamilton county, Ohio. Two years later the family had moved to Cedar Grove, Franklin county, Indiana, where they lived until 1818, when, owing to the hostility of the Indians, they were compelled to seek safety in the old fort eight miles west of Brookville. The next year they came on to Decatur county, Indiana.

The Fugit family was one of considerable achievements and note in the pioneer history of Decatur county, several members of the family having held important positions of trust and responsibility. Judge John Fugit, who had been a justice of the peace in Franklin county before his removal to Decatur county, or what was then called the "New Purchase," brought with him his commission and docket and acted as justice of the peace up to the time the county was organized, when he was elected one of the first associate justices of the circuit court. In 1825, the Fugits moved to Turner's Corner in Clay township, where they lived until 1839, when John Fugit moved to Milford, where he died in 1844.

It was a daughter of John Fugit, Mary (Fugit) Garrison, the mother of the late Joseph W. Garrison, who was known, during her time, as "the washerwoman for all Decatur county," there having been at this time only



JOSEPH W. GARRISON.



three families in the whole county. The Fugits were noted not only for the important positions of trust and responsibility which they held in the early history of the county, but they were also noted for being the tallest family in this county, each member averaging over six feet in height. The children of David and Polly (Fugit) Garrison were John Q. A., Silas W., James L. F., Isaac N., Joseph W., Jesse F., Benjamin F. and David G.

Four children among the six sons and three daughters born to Judge John Fugit and wife, are: Mrs. Mary Garrison; Isaac W., of St. Paul, Minnesota; Mrs. Rachel McCallister, of Windfall; Mrs. Celia Wilson, of Boone county, Indiana, and James, of Greensburg. These children are deceased as are the remainder of the family.

The late Joseph W. Garrison, who was born on January 19, 1838, and died in December, 1909, served three years in Company H, Thirty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Among the severe battles in which he was engaged, were those of Stone's River, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Peachtree Creek, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain and Picket Hill. He was also engaged in the Atlanta campaign and in many minor engagements. Becoming sick in the latter part of the war, he was assigned to the commissary department and was thus connected when he was mustered out of the service.

On February 16, 1865, just after the close of the Civil War, Mr. Garrison was married to Martha E. Tanner, who was born on February 15, 1840, and who recently celebrated her seventy-fifth birthday, the neighbors gathering at her home in large numbers. Mrs. Garrison was born in Washington township and is the daughter of Simpson and Callie Mattie (McGannon) Tanner, natives of Virginia and Kentucky, respectively, who came to Decatur county in 1835. Her father died in Greensburg, Indiana. They had several children: James Elza, Lucy Jane, Ira, Mary, Maria and Zachariah, twins; Annabel and Laura Belle, twins; Lucius, Achsa, Sara E. Simpson Tanner had been twice married. Mrs. Garrison's half-sister, Mrs. Sophia Deere, lives at Franklin, Indiana.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Garrison lived for one year on the Tanner farm and then on the David Garrison farm for two years, after which they rented Mr. Garrison's brother's farm for one year and then purchased a farm of their own in Washington township, where they lived for three years. Eventually, they sold their farm and purchased the one where Caleb Wright now lives, living here for several years, when they moved to Greensburg, where they lived for twenty-one years. The present farm was pur-



chased some time after 1900 and in December of 1902, Mr. and Mrs. Garrison moved to the farm. It comprises one hundred and twenty acres and is a beautiful country home, well-kept with splendid out-buildings and attractive grounds.

The late Joseph W. Garrison was a Republican in politics. He never held office nor was much interested in this phase of political activity. He was a member of the Baptist church and assisted in the building of the church. Fraternally, he was a member of Pap Thomas Post, No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic and of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and a charter members of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Garrison and daughter are charter members of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Garrison is a charter member of the Greensburg chapter, Women's Relief Corps. She and daughter are also members of the Rebekahs at Greensburg. Mr. Garrison was a city councilman of Greensburg. E. F. Roszell was married on December 6, 1905, to Minnie Garrison, daughter of the subject of this sketch. Mr. Roszell has had charge of the farm for nine years. Mr. Rozell is a stand-pat Republican and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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#### EVERETT HAMILTON.

The descendant of a family which was prominent in the state of Kentucky during the last half of the eighteenth century, Everett Hamilton, a retired farmer of Decatur county, who lives in a comfortable home at Greensburg, Indiana, has been for nearly three-quarters of a century a prominent citizen of Decatur county. Given educational advantages, surpassing by far the privileges of most farmers of his day and generation, he was considered a leader in the political and educational life of Fugit township, where he owned a fine farm and where he spent practically all his life, until his removal to Greensburg.

Born on October 16, 1841, on the old homestead farm near Kingston, in Decatur county, he is the son of Cyrus and Mary (McCoy) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in 1800 in Kentucky and who died in 1879. Coming to Decatur county, in 1821, with four brothers, James E., Cyrus, Thomas and Robert Marshall, he settled on a farm near Kingston in Decatur county. All of the four brothers, after coming to Decatur county from Kentucky, and all of whom were the sons of Robert Hamilton, occupied farms between Kingston and Greensburg. In time Cyrus Hamilton came to be a large,

landowner in Decatur county, and at one time owned as much as four hundred acres, which he had cleared and improved. He resided upon the farm until his death. His wife, Mary McCoy, who was a native of Kentucky, was born in 1799, and died in 1881. They had six children, only three of whom are now living: William M. is deceased; Mrs. Melissa Nyce is deceased, and Orlando died in the spring of 1914. Mrs. Cordelia Donnell lives near Clarksburg; Chester lives on a farm in Decatur county, the old homestead farm, and Everett Hamilton is the subject of this sketch. A prominent member of the Whig party and a free-soiler until its disintegration and the formation of the Republican party in 1854, Cyrus Hamilton was a prominent Abolitionist also, and one of the leading advocates in this section of the state of the Abolitionist cause. He was well known as a debater, especially on the subject of slavery, and a devout Presbyterian and member of the Kingston church, which he helped to build.

Educated in the common schools of Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, and in the old Northwestern Christian University, now Butler College, of Indianapolis, where he spent one and one-half years, Everett Hamilton began farming for himself in 1864, at the age of twenty-three, near Kingston, in Decatur township, on eighty acres of land given to him by his father. At the same time he purchased eighty acres of land, on which he never lived, but which he farmed before his marriage. In 1866, he exchanged this farm for one hundred and sixty acres near Clarksburg, to which he moved, and which, in time, he increased to four hundred acres. This farm he cultivated until 1911, when he removed to Greensburg, after erecting a modern residence on East Main street. During his life he was engaged in general farming and stock raising, and was considered to have made a splendid success of his life's vocation.

In 1870, Mr. Hamilton was married to Mary Jane Hopkins, who was born in 1843, on a farm in Fugit township, who is the daughter of Preston E. and Eliza (Donnell) Hopkins, the former of whom, a native of Kentucky, came to Decatur county with his father at an early day. To this union three children were born: Paul, Edwin S. and Frank. Paul is engineer of track and roadway for the Big Four railroad, and has his office in Cincinnati; Edwin S. is a farmer on the old homestead, and Frank is an attorney of Greensburg, Indiana.

A Republican in politics, Everett Hamilton served as trustee of Fugit township for two terms, and also as a member of the board of county commissioners for one term, from 1886 to 1889. Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are members of the Kingston Presbyterian church, in which he served as trustee for many years.

Everett Hamilton is one of the best-known and most highly respected citizens of Decatur county. As a farmer and citizen of Fugit township he was well known and as a public official he was recognized as capable, earnest and scrupulously honest in all his relations. In his declining years he has the satisfaction of knowing that his three sons are following the footsteps of their father, and that they themselves are on the way to similarly honest and useful lives.

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### WILLIAM C. PULSE.

Any work purporting to give a review of the industrial and other conditions of Decatur county must, at the very outset, take into account the great plant built up and controlled by the enterprising firm of Pulse & Porter, general building contractors at Greensburg and Hope, Indiana. These two plants carry a weekly pay-roll that runs as high as six thousand dollars, and at times more than five hundred men are employed by the firm, which is generally recognized as being the most active and energetic firm of building contractors in Indiana, its operations being easily the most extensive of any firm thus engaged in southern Indiana. This concern, which was organized in the year 1888, by the association of William C. Pulse, William R. Porter and Alexander Porter, has grown until it now is not only the largest employer of men in the building trades in Indiana, but which maintains the heaviest retail stock of lumber and building material in the state of Indiana. In a biographical sketch relating to Alexander Porter, one of the members of this firm, presented elsewhere in this volume, reference is made to the many large building contracts executed by this company, and it will not be necessary to enter into that phase of the concerns's operations here, but it is fitting to set out here something regarding the general extent of the plant maintained by the company. In Greensburg, the company operates an extensive planing-mill and sash-door factory, manufacturing, so far as possible, all material entering into the building trades, with particular reference to special work, most of the stock work used in the extensive building operations of the concern being bought outside. In addition to operating the factory at Greensburg, which utilizes the services of about fifty hands on an average, the firm maintains a general supply house at that place, carrying pretty much everything required in the building trades. The company has pleasant and well-equipped offices in connection with the retail building, the planing-mill and lumber yard being situated near the railroad. The Hope plant, which

has one of the best-equipped and most modern sheds in Indiana, with a capacity of from thirty to forty carloads of building material, employs from fifteen to twenty men and has a saw-mill, a ten-ton ice plant and a complete double electric lighting system in connection therewith, using exhaust steam for heating purposes. This plant is maintained for both public and commercial uses and carries building material of every description.

William C. Pulse was born in a farm home in the woods in Salt Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, on September 30, 1859, the son of David G. and Rebecca (VanCleave) Pulse, both natives of Hamilton county, Ohio, who were born and reared near Cincinnati at a time when the now proud Queen City was but a village. The Pulses and the VanCleavees were among the prominent families of the Cincinnati neighborhood and were associates of the Tyler Davidsons, the Nicholas Longworths and others of the leading families of Cincinnati in that day. At that period the country around Cincinnati was an unbroken forest and Mr. Pulse's parents often recalled in later years the fact that there were but few houses in the neighborhood of their childhood homes and the wild deer still frequented the "licks" which were so common thereabout. It was customary for the families to go to market in big wagons, camping over night on the way.

David G. Pulse, who was born in 1819, and who died in this county in March, 1889, was the son of a Virginian, of Pennsylvania-Dutch or High German extraction. He was united in marriage in Hamilton county, Ohio, to Rebecca VanCleave, and in that county the first three children of this union were born. About 1847, the Pulses moved to this county, buying a farm of about one hundred and twenty acres in Salt Creek township, hill and forest land, the forest being gradually cleared and the hills brought under cultivation. David G. Pulse was a man of large influence in the community in which he made his home and he and his wife were regarded as among the leaders in that neighborhood. Both were persons of excellent education, and it is undoubted that their influence had very much to do with bringing about better social and economic conditions in that now well-established farming region. Mr. Pulse was a Democrat and his first vote was cast for James K. Polk for President. For many years he served the township as justice of the peace, and his judgments always were regarded as equitable by his neighbors. The Pulses were Methodists and were leaders of the meetings which were conducted by the "circuit riders" thereabout in those days.

To David G. and Rebecca (VanCleave) Pulse were born five children: Olney E., who enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for service in behalf of the Union



during the Civil War, and was killed in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain in June, 1864; John, who died in November, 1900; Oscar L., who now is living in Belle City, Missouri, to which place he moved in 1892; James C., who died in Paragould, Arkansas, in October, 1901, and William C., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch. In January, 1889, the Pulses retired from the farm and moved into the city of Greensburg, where Mr. Pulse died the following March, his widow continuing to make her residence there until the time of her death, twenty-four years later, June 17, 1913, she then being eighty-nine years, six months and seventeen days old.

William C. Pulse received his elementary education in the district school of his home neighborhood, which he supplemented with a course in Hartsville College and a course in the university at Valparaiso, Indiana, lacking but half a year of finishing in the latter institution. In 1883, he resumed his studies, taking the regular scientific course. Mr. Pulse earned his way through college by teaching school in Decatur county, having taught for nine years, in which profession he was very successful, his well-recognized qualifications giving him the choice of positions in the county. Between terms of teaching, Mr. Pulse farmed or operated a saw-mill until the year 1888, when he engaged in the contracting business. The history of the well-established firm of Pulse & Porter is the story of the success of Mr. Pulse since that time.

On January 10, 1894, William C. Pulse was united in marriage to Ida E. Black, of Anderson, Indiana, a daughter of McFarland and Mary (Wood) Black, both of whom now are deceased, to which union two children were born, William McFarland, on August 17, 1895, died on August 17, 1896, and Mary Rebecca, January 17, 1897, died on August 14, 1900.

Mrs. Pulse is a member of the First Methodist church of Greensburg, and is active in its work. Mr. Pulse is a Republican and for years has been a leader in that party throughout this section of the state. In 1910, he was the party's candidate for joint senator for the district comprised of Bartholomew and Decatur counties, and was defeated in this Democratic district by a majority of but sixteen votes, the stress of his personal business preventing his close application to his campaign. He stands high in Masonry, having reached the thirty-second degree, and three times serving as the master of the Greensburg lodge of that order, of which lodge he was a trustee; a member of the grand lodge of Indiana and grand marshal of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Indiana; a thirty-second degree Mason, and a member of the Shriners at Murat Temple in Indianapolis, and has taken everything in Masonry, both York and Scottish Rite. He also is a charter

member and past exalted ruler of the Greensburg Lodge No. 475, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and past chancellor commander of Greensburg Lodge No. 188, Knights of Pythias. Mr. Pulse is one of the directors of the Sterling Fire Insurance Company, of Indianapolis, which has a paid-up capital of eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars, with assets of one million, six hundred thousand dollars, including surplus and reserves. For six years he was a member of the directorate of the Indiana Retail Lumber Dealers' Association, which association he served for two years as president and one year as vice-president. He is active in all movements having to do with the development of the best interests of his home community, both in material, moral and civic way and he and Mrs. Pulse also take an active interest in the social affairs of the city, none there being held in higher regard than they, where they own a beautiful home. Mr. and Mrs. Pulse live on East Washington street.

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#### WALTER B. CORY.

How fitting and proper it is that here and there in the pages of this history there should be presented memorials to certain aforesaid residents of this county who performed well their respective parts in the life of the community, and then passed on, leaving behind them pleasant memories of work well done, duties faithfully performed; having bequeathed to those near and dear to them the priceless heritage of a good name. Among all these memorial tributes there is none better deserved than that which here is paid to the memory of the man whose name is noted above, Walter B. Cory, a one-time well-known young farmer of Washington township, whose home, situated about three miles west of Greensburg, was a great source of pleasure to him during his life.

Walter B. Cory was born in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Joseph and Lenora (Deem) Cory, both natives of this county, whose parents were among the earliest settlers thereabout. The genealogy of the Cory family, together with an extended biographical sketch of Joseph Cory, will be found on another page in this volume. Walter B. Cory was reared on the paternal farm, receiving such education as the district schools offered in the days of his boyhood, and two years in Greensburg high school and a business course at Danville, Indiana, and on February 6, 1894, was united in marriage to Louisa Lynch, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Bentley) Lynch, the former of whom was born in Franklin county,

Indiana, in 1825, and died at his home in this county in 1902, the latter of whom was born in this county in 1834, and died in 1900.

Benjamin Lynch came to this county from Franklin county as a young man and here he was married. He opened a store at the hamlet of Letts, which he conducted quite successfully for some years. Later he bought a farm near the village of Adams, and, in addition to operating the same, engaged extensively in the business of stock buying. It was on this farm near Adams that Mrs. Cory was born. Benjamin Lynch was the son of Pierce Lynch, a native of Pennsylvania, who emigrated to Indiana in an early day, locating in Franklin county, where he spent the remainder of his life, coming to be one of the most influential residents of the community in which he lived. Benjamin Lynch retired from the farm when encroaching years made impossible his further active labors, moving into the town of Adams, where he died in 1902. His wife had preceded him to the grave by two years, her death having occurred in the year 1900. She was the daughter of William and Sarah M. (Howe) Bentley, pioneers of this county. For additional details of the genealogy of the Bentleys, together with a history of that family in this county, the reader is referred to the sketch of Alexander Bentley, presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Benjamin and Sarah (Bentley) Lynch four children were born, as follow: Mrs. Anna Wooley, who died at Lebanon, Indiana; Olive, who married Professor George L. Roberts, a member of the faculty of Purdue University, and lives at Lafayette, Indiana; Perry, who lives in Oklahoma, and Louisa, the widow of Mr. Cory.

For two years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Cory resided in the Lynch home near Adams, after which they engaged in farming on their own account, buying a fine tract of land about three miles west of Greensburg. This farm recently was sold by Mrs. Cory, who since then has been making her home in Greensburg. In addition to operating his farm, Walter B. Cory also operated a threshing outfit and was one of the best known men in the county.

To Walter B. and Louisa (Lynch) Cory two children were born, Cecil L. and Ernest J., both of whom are still at home with their mother, and the latter of whom is still in school. Mr. Cory was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is his widow, and these children have been reared in the faith of that church. Mr. Cory's death in September, 1909, was a grievous blow to his family and was lamented also by his large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the county the fact that he was

removed from the scene of earth's activities in the very prime of his vigorous manhood making his passing all the more to be regretted.

Mr. Cory was a Republican and took a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county though not what might be called a particularly active worker in politics. He, however, took an earnest interest in good government and was deeply interested in all measures designed to improve the general conditions of society. He was a good man and the community sustained a real loss when he was called away.

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### JOHN NICOLAS WALLINGFORD.

John Nicholas Wallingford was one of the few men who have had the good fortune to step into a business already established. He escaped all that anxiety which usually attends the building up of a new enterprise, and even after tiring of the life of a merchant, fortune continued to smile upon him, holding open for him the door to a continued successful life, from a financial standpoint. His sterling qualities were recognized by the United States government, as he was rewarded with a very responsible position, the duties of which he performed with honest loyalty.

John Nicholas Wallingford, deceased, a merchant of Greensburg, Indiana, was born on March 31, 1840, and died on August 13, 1907. He was a son of Hiram and Hannah (Morris) Wallingford. He succeeded his father in the dry goods business, upon his retirement, and continued the business until 1885, from which he also retired later on, and was for eight years in the employment of the government, serving four years as deputy internal revenue collector, and then storekeeper gauger until his death.

Hiram Wallingford was a native of Kentucky, and came to Rush county directly after the Civil War. He finally located in Greensburg, where he conducted a mercantile business, and where he spent the last years of his life. His children were: Mary, Alicia, Eliza, John, Kate, Fannie and William. Mary became Mrs. Tully, and is now deceased; Alicia lives in Decatur county; Eliza, deceased; Kate became the wife of a Mr. Grove, and is now deceased, as is also Fannie; William lives at Farnham, Nebraska.

John Nicholas Wallingford was twice married. First, about 1866, to Alice Foster, a native of Pennsylvania, who died about 1893, leaving three children: John Devol, who lives in Des Moines, Iowa; William, who died at Des Moines, and Morris, also deceased. His second marriage took place on



November 17, 1897, with Mary Louise Snodgrass, who was born in Ripley county, and is a daughter of William Harrison and Mary (Wood) Snodgrass, natives of Kentucky and Indiana, respectively. Mr. Wallingford was a Republican, and a member of the Christian church. Mrs. Wallingford survives her husband.

William Harrison Snodgrass, father of Mrs. Wallingford, was born in 1818, and died in 1900, his wife, Mary, was born in 1823, and died in 1905. Mr. Snodgrass was a son of John Snodgrass, of Kentucky. He lived in Ripley county until 1884, and then came to Greensburg, where he retired from business, and where his last days were spent. Capt. William Harrison Snodgrass, of the Eighty-third Indiana, enlisted in Decatur county, and served throughout the Civil War. He was captain of Company A, and enlisted as second lieutenant, advanced to first lieutenant, then captain and brevet major. His children were: Josephine Callahan, who died in 1900; Emma Hatch, now a widow; Hester Dennison, deceased; Worth, deceased; Melissa Dennison now living at Greensburg; Mary Wallingford, and Dea Jenks, deceased. They were all members of the Christian church.

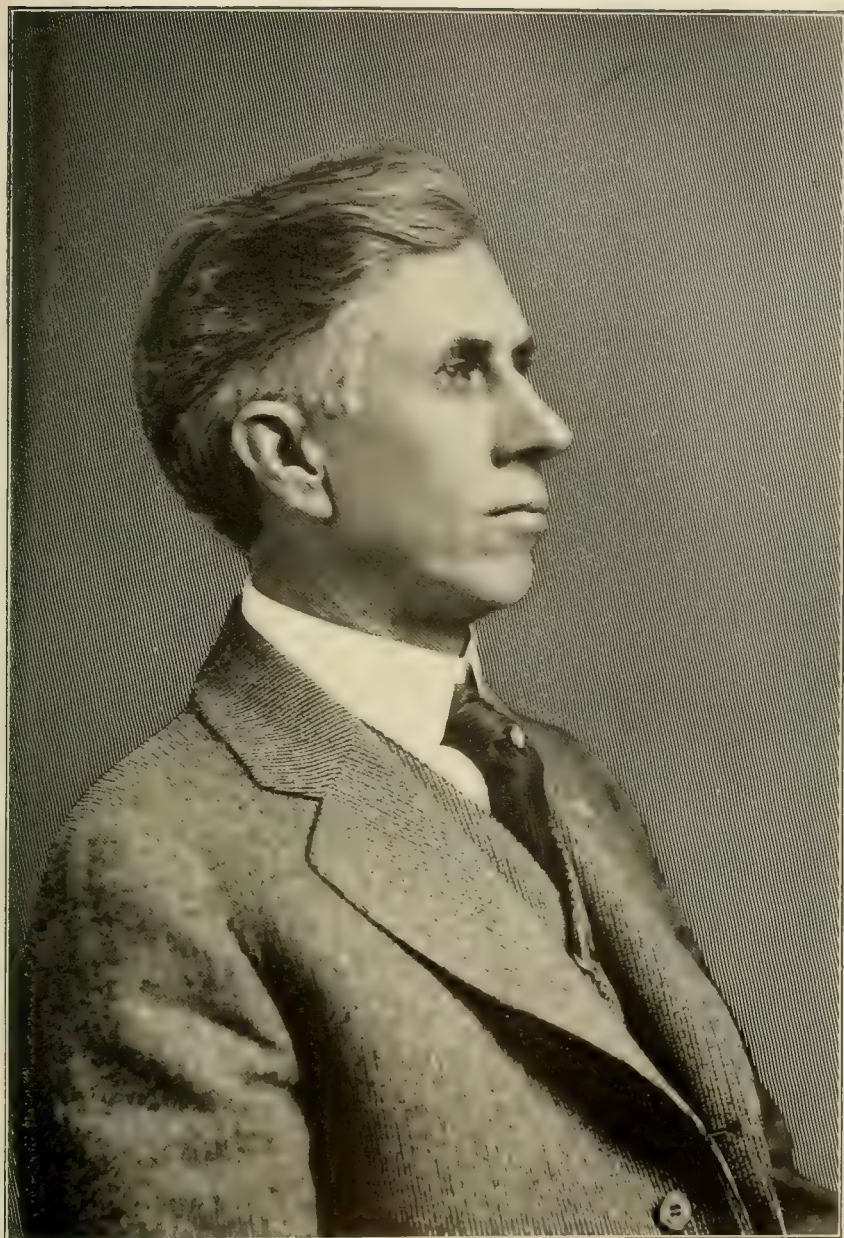
John Snodgrass, paternal grandfather of Mrs. Wallingford, was a native of Kentucky, and located in Indiana, in 1821, where he bought government land, the deeds to which were signed by John Quincy Adams.

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#### LUTHER D. BRADEN.

Luther D. Braden, the editor and publisher of the *Standard*, a family newspaper established at Greensburg, Indiana, in 1835, by John Thomson, is descended on his father's side from Irish ancestry, and on his mother's side from English ancestry.

Mr. Braden was born in Clay township, Decatur county, on November 5, 1861, the son of Robert and Pamelia (Anderson) Braden. William Braden, the paternal grandfather, was a native of County Tyrone, in the north of Ireland. He emigrated to the United States in 1795, and after settling temporarily in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, removed to Scott county, Kentucky, and, in 1822, removed to Clarksburg, Decatur county, where he died in 1825. He married Ufama Jackson, a native of Ireland, and they had nine children. Robert Braden, the father of Luther D., was born on July 11, 1814, in Scott county, Kentucky, and was eight years old when brought to Decatur county, in 1822. In 1839 he located in Clay township, where he



LUTHER D. BRADEN.



became an extensive farmer. He was a man of very aggressive disposition, and a leader in the community where he lived. A charter member of the Milford Christian church, founded in 1842, and a Republican in politics, he died in 1887. In 1838 he had married Pamela Anderson, the daughter of Joseph Anderson, who laid out and named the town of Andersonville, Franklin county, Indiana. They had four children: Joseph A., a veteran of the Civil War, a justice of the peace and an insurance and real estate dealer at Rossville, Illinois; Jane, the widow of Thomas A. Shirk; Jeremy A., a retired farmer, of Greensburg, and Luther D., the subject of this sketch.

Born and reared in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, Luther D. Braden entered Hartsville College in 1878, and after spending four years in that institution, began teaching in 1882. In the meantime he studied in the Northern Indiana Normal at Valparaiso. From 1889 to 1891, he served as county superintendent of Decatur county, and from 1891 to 1893, he was principal of St. Paul's school.

In 1893, Mr. Braden came to Greensburg, and for one year was a member of the firm of J. C. Pulse & Company, wholesale grocers. In October of the following year, Mr. Braden purchased the *Standard*, the oldest paper in Decatur county, and one which was established in 1835 by John Thomson, the grandfather of Mrs. Braden. It is a family newspaper.

On December 17, 1890, Luther D. Braden was married to Ella Thomson, the daughter of Orville Thomson, of Greensburg. To this happy union has been born one child, Marie.

Mr. Braden is a Republican in politics, and a very active worker in the Christian church, of which he is an elder. He is a member of the official board of the Greensburg congregation and was superintendent of the Sunday school for seven years. Fraternally, he is a member of Greensburg Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons; of Chapter No. 8, Royal Arch Masons, and Greensburg Council No. 74, Royal and Select Masters. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias.

As a man who exerts a silent and unostentatious influence for good, Luther D. Braden has no superior in Decatur county. Not only does he possess the confidence and esteem of his fellow townsmen, but of the people wherever he is known. He is an eminently worthy citizen of this great county.

Mr. Braden has taken great interest in collecting early historical data of Decatur county, and his paper for the past twenty years has presented many valuable facts that otherwise might have been lost to posterity. Since



the death of Orville Thomson, in 1910, he is generally conceded to be the best-informed person in the county on all matters pertaining to its general history.

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### WILLIAM F. SMILEY.

William F. Smiley, a retired farmer of Decatur county, who, after completing an educational course of training as was exceptional for his generation, began farming in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, on a farm of eighty acres presented to him by his father, increased the acreage from time to time until he now owns two hundred and forty acres and is regarded as one of the most successful farmers of the county. The Smiley family, which was established in Decatur county early in 1849, was founded here by William Smiley, who became, during his career, as a farmer, one of the most prosperous and extensive landowners and stockmen in this section of the state.

William F. Smiley, now a resident of Greensburg, Indiana, and a retired farmer of Decatur county, was born on November 21, 1848, in Butler county, Ohio, the son of William and Mary Ann (Kinney) Smiley, natives of Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, respectively, the former of whom was born in 1814 and died on June 6, 1893, and the latter of whom was born in 1817 and died in 1906. William Smiley was the son of Patrick Smiley, a gentleman of Irish descent, who lived in Pennsylvania, from whence the son moved to Butler county, Ohio, and, after being married there, in 1835, came, when seventeen years old, to Decatur county, arriving in February, 1849. Settling in Clay township, he purchased land and became a prosperous farmer. Starting with eighty acres of land which was purchased with a capital of three hundred dollars, inherited by his wife, he returned for his family and drove through from Ohio to Decatur county with an ox team. From time to time he bought more land and owned, at the time of his death, one thousand acres. A large farmer and stockman, he was also an ardent Democrat and a member of the Primitive Methodist church. He and his wife had nine children, four of whom are deceased. The names of the children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: Mrs. Parmelia Henry, deceased; Mrs. Caroline Sefton, the wife of Ed. Sefton, of Greensburg; George Washington, who died in 1907; Harvey, who died on January 8, 1915; Thomas K., a farmer near Hartsville, Indiana; Mary, who died on August 16, 1914; William F., the subject of this sketch; Sov-

ereign P., a hotel proprietor in Texas; and Mrs. Margaret Johnson, of Greensburg.

Educated in Hartsville College, Mr. Smiley has always farmed. He began with a tract of eighty acres given to him by his father and, after locating upon this farm, which is situated in Clay township, he built a new house and, upon his marriage, settled there, residing on the farm from 1878 to 1897, after which he moved to Greensburg for one year and then moved to Burney, where he lived until 1911. He later returned to Greensburg and now resides in this city. In the meantime, Mr. Smiley has increased the acreage of his farm to two hundred and forty acres and has two sets of farm buildings. He is one of the most extensive raisers of cattle and hogs in the county.

On October 29, 1878, William F. Smiley was married to Jennie Ewing, who was born on July 20, 1857, in Milford, Decatur county, Indiana, and who is the daughter of Joshua and Alice (Russell) Ewing, natives of Decatur county, the former of whom was born in 1833 and who died in March, 1891. Joshua Ewing, who was the son of Patrick Ewing, a native of Maryland, was one of a large family and was also one of triplets, born to his parents. The other two children born at the same time were Putman and Abraham.

The Ewing family is of Scotch-Irish extraction, Patrick Ewing, the founder of the family in America, having immigrated from Ireland before the Revolution, a son, Putnam, being born on the voyage to America. Patrick Ewing settled at Elkton, Maryland, and became the father of four sons, Samuel, Joshua, Nathan and Putnam. The first three sons settled in Virginia. Putnam Ewing married Jennie McClelland, the daughter of a Doctor McClelland, of Maryland, and moved to Bourbon county, Kentucky, in 1806, settling in Bath county, where he died. Eleven children were born to Putnam and Jennie Ewing, Robert, Patrick, Joshua, Polly, Samuel, Jennie, James, Eliza, George, McClelland and Andrew Jackson. Of this family, Patrick, the immediate ancestor of Mrs. Smiley, was born in 1803 in Cecil county, Maryland, and was married to Lydia Morgan, September 5, 1827, who was a native of Montgomery county, Kentucky. Patrick and his wife, the former of whom was the captain of the militia during his residence in Kentucky, came to Decatur county in 1827 and settled in Clay township, where they reared a family of fifteen children, Sarah J., Mary, Eliza, Putnam, Abel, Joshua, Robert, Cortez, Samuel H., Lydia, James K., George M., Martha C., Morgan J. and Alice J. Of this family, Sarah J. was first married to John G. King, and after her death, he married her sister, Eliza; Mary married Jesse Howard. Of the three sons, Putnam, Abel and Joshua, triplets, Putnam

married Mary DeArmond and after her death married Sarah A. Hackleman; Joshua married Alice Russell and they were the parents of Mrs. Smiley; Abel married Nancy J. G. Patton; Robert married Sallie King; Cortez, an attorney-at-law, married Elizabeth H. Matthews; Samuel H. married Mahala Braden; Lydia married James W. Barclay; James K. is referred to elsewhere in this volume; Martha C. is the wife of James C. Davis, and Alice J. is the wife of James M. Hiner.

Alice Russell, who became the wife of Joshua Ewing and the mother of Mrs. William F. Smiley, was born in 1841, at Milford, the daughter of Robert Russell, a pioneer citizen of the county. She died in 1905. Of the seven children born to Joshua and Alice (Russell) Ewing, Jennie married the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Lydia Russell lives at Flat Rock, Indiana; Mrs. Hessie Arnold, who lives one-half mile from Burney, is the wife of a music dealer, and Mrs. Lucy Alley lives five miles south of Burney on a farm.

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Smiley have had no children. Mr. Smiley is a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Smiley are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Smiley is a member of the Department Club, the Afternoon Lecture Course, the Art Circle and the Music Circle. Mr. Smiley is a member of Burney Lodge, Knights of Pythias.

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#### WILLIAM C. WOODFILL.

As the senior member of the firm of J. M. Woodfill's Sons, of Greensburg, William C. Woodfill has contributed his quota to the progress and development of the town. If it were true that the commercial interests of a locality form the foundation upon which its other civic life rests, and around which its activities are built, then, the honest, upright merchant is an important factor of that community. He helps largely in the formation of public sentiment, and his views and opinions are generally looked upon as being worthy of respect and consideration. William C. Woodfill has been, in this sense, conspicuous in the commercial affairs of Greensburg. He is a native of this town, having been born here on May 8, 1870, and is a son of James M. Woodfill, president of the Greensburg National Bank.

The store now owned by W. C., C. M. and J. V. Woodfill was established by their grandfather, Gabriel Woodfill, in November, 1830, this being carried on in connection with a banking business made necessary because, at that time, there were no banks. It will thus be seen that the business instinct

has been strong in this family for several generations back, but it has also been connected with high moral principles and an ethical consciousness, for Greensburg's first banker assisted in building the First Methodist Episcopal church. We shall have occasion to refer more definitely to Mr. Woodfill's ancestry later on in this sketch.

William C. Woodfill graduated from the Greensburg high school, and then took a course in a business school in Cincinnati. Returning, he began work in his father's store, then known by the firm name of Hittle & Christian. As the sons in this family came of age, they were given an interest in the store, and William was no exception to the rule. From that time on, he has taken a keen interest in the management on good business principles of the oldest merchandise store in Greensburg, and as its leading merchant, has attained an enviable place in the community.

On October 4, 1893, Mr. Woodfill married Miss Elizabeth Donnell, daughter of Seth Donnell, who is deceased. Her mother, Mrs. Donnell, still lives in Greensburg. To this union the following children were born: James Donnell, a student of Purdue University; William Stewart, of Bowdoin College, Maine; Elizabeth and Margaret, both of whom are attending school at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodfill have taken deep interest in educational matters, and the former is at present a member of the city school board. Aside from his own business establishment, Mr. Woodfill has identified himself with other commercial activities of the town, and is now the president of the Greensburg Building and Loan Association.

Mr. Woodfill is a Republican, and his personal influence has given strength to the local party. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge, the Knights of Pythias, the Free and Accepted Masons, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

As the merchandise store founded by his ancestors has formed such an integral part of his life, a brief sketch of its history will not be inappropriate. The store now supplies the public with clothing and men's furnishings. It succeeded the firm of J. M. Woodfill & Sons in 1897, this having been the firm name from 1895. It was known as Woodfill & Byers from 1890 until 1895, as Christian & Woodfill from 1888 until 1890, which succeeded Hittle & Christian, who, in turn, succeeded John P. Hittle, founder of the original store. There was a close alliance between business and family relations, as J. H. Christian was a nephew of J. M. Woodfill, and son-in-law of John P. Hittle.

Mr. Woodfill's strength of character, as well as his energy and marked



business ability, have been of signal value in the history of the community in which he and his family have lived for several generations. While building up his commercial interests, he has not neglected those personal and civic duties which assume the form of obligations in the life of every man, for, like his distinguished ancestors, he has been public-spirited, and has placed the good of his town and county next to that of himself and his own family. It is such men that form the bone and sinew of any people.

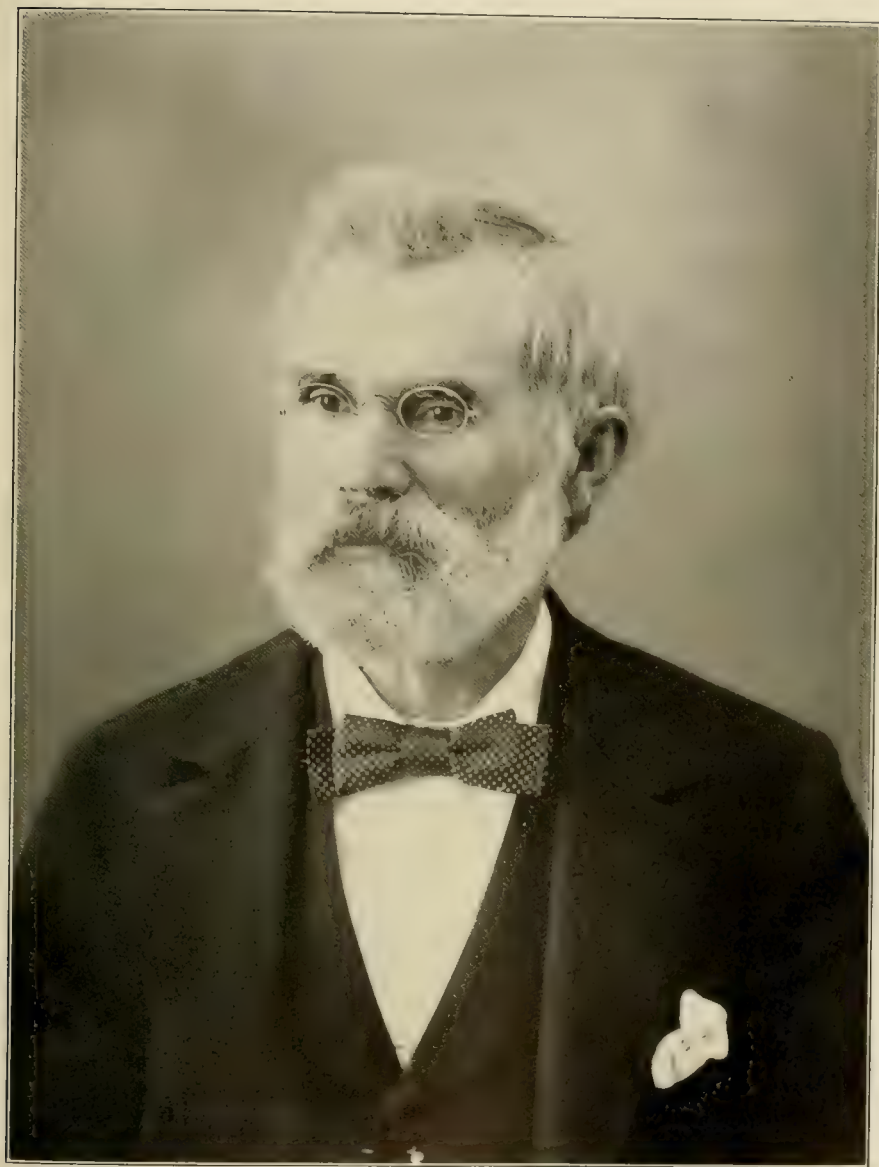
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### JOHN HENRY METZ.

One of the splendid pioneer citizens still living in Decatur county, Indiana, and one of its wealthiest farmers, is John Henry Metz, of Fugit township. His present condition of affluence is in bold contrast to his financial condition, when he arrived in this country more than sixty years ago, after a long and tedious voyage on an immigrant ship with nine hundred others, when he had only twenty-five cents in his pocket at the time he landed in New York city. The story of his rise to fortune and success as a farmer, devoid of the romance and hardships which he suffered in pioneer times, is the story of the most rigid personal economy and consistent and increasing savings. His is a record to make the cheeks of the young men of the present generation, whose lives are being spent in wanton living, burn with shame, and his life ought to be an example to every young man of worthy and commendable ambitions, a command to follow, in the fundamentals at least, the career of this honorable and distinguished citizen.

Born on July 10, 1832, at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, in Prussia, John Henry Metz came to America in 1854, at the age of twenty-two and, after two years in Ohio, in 1856 came on to Decatur county. The son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Kolb) Metz, farmers by occupation, John H. Metz was reared on the farm in his native land. He left home, family and friends to seek his fortune in a new country with a single companion. The voyage to America, which required forty-six days, was made on the ship "Milhausen."

On arriving in Decatur county, Indiana, Mr. Metz was employed by James and, later, by William Bonner, for five dollars a month, and out of these earnings, he was able to save money and purchase his first land in Salt Creek township. Later, he bought forty acres and still another forty and began to raise hogs. In fact, this has been the secret of his success and fortune. He also made great profits in the early days by growing wheat.



JOHN H. METZ.



For many years he has been accustomed to raise one hundred and fifty head of hogs a year, and to sell at least one carload of cattle every year. He now owns six hundred acres of land in Fugit and Salt Creek townships, upon which are located three sets of buildings. All of this land is either farmed or managed by members of his family. Not many years ago he remodeled his farm house and now has a handsome and comfortable residence, the equal of any to be found in Fugit township.

Six years after coming to America and four years after arriving in Decatur county, John Henry Metz was married, February 14, 1860, to Louise Huber, who was born in Franklin county, Indiana, July 16, 1836, and who was the daughter of Gottfried and Margaret (Zeigler) Huber, natives of Germany. After rearing a large family of children, Mrs. Metz passed away on July 10, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Metz had eight children: Leona, George W., Mary Elizabeth, John H., Jr., Edward L., William G., Charles Frederick and Maude Louise, the latter dying in 1912. Leona married Chester King and lives in Clinton township, near Williamstown; they have six children, Mary Elizabeth, the wife of Fred Caldwell; Florence, John H., Jr., Stella, Elendore and Edward. George W. married Catherine Ravenstein, of Cincinnati and is a merchant at Newpoint, where he was postmaster for sixteen years. Of his nine children, Amanda married McClelland Wolfe and has two children; Neola Maurine died on March 30, 1915, age two years, and Orin Keith, lives in Delaware, Ohio; Elma Marie married Howard Starks and has two children, Bessie Metz and Audrey Louise; Christina, William M., Anna L., Margarette, Cora May, George H., Catherine. Mary Elizabeth is the housekeeper for her father. John H., Jr., lives at home. Edward L. married Louisa Moulton and has two children, Edward Albert and Temperance Louise. William G. married Luella Dravis, Fugit township. Charles Frederick is at home.

Mr. Metz's sons are extensive breeders of Aberdeen Angus cattle and ordinarily have from eighty to one hundred head on the farm. A Republican in politics, John Henry Metz has never been active in the councils of his party, even though he is, and has always been, a leader in his community. He is a member of the Kingston Presbyterian church, as was his good wife during her life. John Henry Metz is a fine type of the German gentleman, who has attained success from the humble start which he had in this country. He is well-read, intelligent and hospitable and one of the few really old settlers left in Decatur county. He has reared a fine family of industrious sons and daughters and his home is decidedly one of the best in the state



of Indiana. That he is a good farmer and that his sons, who have taken up his work, are also good farmers, is amply proved by the fact that in a dry year, 1914, they raised from sixty to eighty bushels of corn per acre on their land. It is unfortunate that every community cannot have within its boundaries men of the same character, capacity and ability, as John Henry Metz.

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GUY E. KITCHIN.

We can scarcely think a man thoroughly appreciates his privileges and independence, when he arrives at the point of owning a valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres of good farm land, in a well-settled district. It becomes such a habit with him, that he loses sight of the fact that he is indeed fortunate in these days of high-priced real estate. If he could but read the thoughts of the man bending over the books in a city office, with his hands and feet practically chained to a desk, he would know that nothing but the acreage price keeps this man from freeing himself from his mental drudgery, and going forth, with a glad heart, to where he can get a fresh breath of air, and live an independent life. Nor is he alone in his thoughts. There are hundreds of thousands of men and women whose views would not vary a hair's breadth in this direction.

Guy Kitchin, farmer, Fugit township, was born on October 7, 1882, in Fugit township, on their home farm. He is a son of Frank B. and Clara (Robbins) Kitchin. He first attended the public schools at Kingston, and when eighteen years of age, entered Purdue University, remaining there one year, 1899-1900, after which he returned home and farmed for a short time, and then went to Kansas and Oklahoma for his health in 1908. He remained in Oklahoma four years, and then returned to Decatur county in the fall of 1912. In politics, he has always voted the Republican ticket, and is a member of the Kingston Presbyterian church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias. The fine farm, of three hundred and twenty acres, stands as a witness to his ability, as well as to his thrifty habits.

Frank Benjamin Kitchin, father of our subject, was born and reared on the home farm in Decatur county, where he farmed until his removal to Indianapolis in the spring of 1912. He owns five hundred acres in Fugit township, covering three well-improved farms. He does general farming, and is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle. To Frank Kitchin and his wife were

born six children, as follow: Clyde, Guy, Coza, Grace, Thomas and Frank Barnard. Clyde lives in Rush county; Coza lives in Indianapolis; Grace is the wife of Harry Moore, and lives at Alexandria; Frank Barnard lives in Indianapolis.

In December, 1908, Guy Kitchin was married to Joy Thompson, daughter of Edgar Thompson, of Jennings county. They have one child, Edgar, born in November, 1911.

Guy Kitchin has lived on his present farm since 1911. The father bought this tract of land about 1887, known as the Donnell farm. Guy Kitchin buys cattle and feeds on an average about seventy-five head during the year. On his farm he raises diversified crops and feeds all the grain and hay he can produce. Aside from this he buys a good deal of grain and feeds to carry him through the season.

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#### WILLIAM SKEEN WOODFILL.

The Woodfill family have been prominently identified with the history of Decatur county since 1830, when the first members of the family came to Greensburg. In everything which goes to make a community better in the essentials which advance civilization, the family have acted well their part. Succeeding generations of the Woodfills have been characterized by those sterling qualities which marked the members of the family who have gone before them.

The late William S. Woodfill was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, on November 16, 1825, the son of Gabriel and Eleanor (Pullman) Woodfill. The family trace their ancestry back to Welsh and English progenitors and have found that the first members of the family located in Pennsylvania in the early colonial days. Reverend Gabriel, the great-grandfather of William S. Woodfill, emigrated from Pennsylvania to Kentucky and settled in Shelby county early in the history of that state. He was a pioneer in Methodism in Kentucky and upon locating in Jefferson county, Indiana, became one of the earliest Methodist ministers of the Hoosier state. He was a man of large influence in his community and his labors in the Master's vineyard proved of inestimable benefit to his widely scattered neighbors.

Andrew Woodfill, the son of the good old Methodist circuit rider and the grandfather of William S. Woodfill, was born in Pennsylvania, but spent most of his life in the vicinity of Madison, Indiana. He entered government land in Jefferson county, married a Miss Mitchell and reared a family of

twelve children, eight of whom lived to maturity. The last of the children to die were Mrs. Ellen Greene, of Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Sarah Maish, of Illinois, and Mrs. James Woodfill, of Texas.

Gabriel, one of the sons of Andrew, and the father of William S., was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, in 1800. Later he moved with his parents to Jefferson county, Indiana, but after reaching manhood returned to Kentucky, where he engaged in farming and merchandising. On November 16, 1830, he located in Greensburg, Indiana, and immediately began to take a prominent part in the commercial and fraternal life of the town. In the same year he opened a store and the business which he established in Greensburg, eighty-five years ago, is now in the hands of William W. Woodfill, at the corner of Washington street and Broadway, a grandson of the old pioneer merchant. Gabriel also carried on a banking business in connection with his store, and was easily the foremost man in the business life of the town. He was an ardent Whig and when the Republican party was organized he gave it the same hearty support. He was an earnest member of the Methodist church and was one of the organizers of the First Methodist church, and later of the Centenary church. He was twice married. His first marriage was with Eleanor Pullman, and to this union were born three children, Andrew; William S., a life-long merchant of Greensburg, and Mary, who became the wife of Henry Christian. Upon the death of his first wife, Gabriel Woodfill married Elizabeth Van Pelt, a daughter of Joseph Van Pelt, and to this second union were also born three children, John, deceased; James M. and Catherine, the deceased wife of Rev. James Crawford.

William Skeen Woodfill was five years of age when the family came to Decatur county in 1830 and spent the remainder of his life in Greensburg. Receiving a good common-school education, he early in life began to work in his father's store, which, by the time he had reached manhood, was the leading mercantile establishment of the town. Later his father made him a partner, the firm being known as Woodfill & Son until January, 1863. On that date the father retired from active business cares and the firm was changed to Woodfill Brothers, the three brothers being William, John and James. This arrangement continued until February, 1869, when the death of John caused the firm to be changed to W. S. Woodfill & Company. In 1882 the style of the firm was changed to J. M. Woodfill & Company, but this change lasted less than a year. On January 1, 1884, James retired and from then until the death of William S., July 25, 1899, the firm was known as W. S. Woodfill & Sons. Since the year 1899 the firm has been known as W. W. Woodfill's Sons, although W. W. Woodfill is now the manager of the establishment.

The Greensburg Gas and Electric Company was organized by William S. Woodfill in 1875 and he was president of the company from the time of its organization until his death, in 1899. In addition to his extensive commercial and industrial interests in Greensburg, he owned four valuable farms in Decatur county.

On November 18, 1857, William S. Woodfill was married to Sarah A. Talbott, the daughter of H. H. Talbott, the first clerk of the Decatur county circuit court. To this union were born four children, Elizabeth, who became the wife of Rev. J. W. Turner, of Decatur county; William Wirt, a merchant of Greensburg; Harry Talbott, superintendent of the Greensburg Gas and Electric Light Company, and Web, secretary-treasurer of the same company.

The wife of W. S. Woodfill died on October 31, 1898. She represented the highest type of womanhood and her whole life was a benediction to those who came in contact with her. Devoted to her husband and children, she fulfilled, in the truest sense, the noblest mission of womanhood.

William S. Woodfill was an earnest Republican, but never an office-seeker, his extensive business interests demanding all of his time and attention. He was a charter member of Greensburg Lodge No. 102, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, organized in 1851, and lived to be the last survivor of the charter members of the lodge. He was also a member of the encampment at Evansville, Indiana. For twenty years he was a member of the Centenary church of Greensburg and took an active part in furthering all worthy causes proposed by his church.

Such, in brief, is the life of one of Greensburg's most influential citizens of the past century. His life was always above reproach and he never shirked his duty as a citizen of the commonwealth in order to avoid responsibility. Such men give stability to any community, and such a man, in the highest sense of the word, was William S. Woodfill.

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#### WALTER AND ROBERT SCOTT.

The founder of the Scott family in Decatur county, Indiana, who was William H. Scott, was the son of Robert and Nancy Scott, of Butler county, Ohio, who were married in 1824. On the paternal side of the family the Scotts of Decatur county are descended from Scottish ancestry. William H. Scott came to Indiana before the Civil War and in 1865 was married to Emily L. Logan, and to them were born six children, of whom Walter and Robert are the subjects of this sketch.



Walter Scott, who owns eighty acres in Fugit township and who is also farming one hundred and sixty acres, was born on May 5, 1881, on the Scott homestead, located on the Donnell pike. He was educated in the Kingston schools and at Tarkio College, but has always been engaged in farming. For a number of years he was associated with his brother, Fred, in farming the Logan estate and, in the fall of 1907, purchased his present farm, which he has greatly improved, especially by the erection of a beautiful country house in 1910 and a large barn, forty-four by forty-eight feet. Mr. Scott was married on October 26, 1910, to Hazel Walker, who was born in Adams on June 7, 1887, the daughter of John Lee and Stella Walker, natives of Indiana, who reside in Adams. To Mr. and Mrs. Walker Scott have been born two children, Harold Walker, on May 10, 1912, and Miriam Edith, February 1, 1915. Politically, Mr. Scott is a Republican and is a member of the township advisory board. He and his wife are members of the Kingston Presbyterian church.

Robert Scott is a well-known farmer of Fugit township, who owns eighty acres of land and who is farming another eighty acres belonging to Margaret J. Logan, was born on March 16, 1884, on the Donnell pike. Mr. Scott grew up as a farmer in Decatur county and was married on October 16, 1908, to Anna Martha McCall, of New Concord, Ohio, a sister of Reverend McCall, and daughter of Marshall and Anna McCall. Mr. and Mrs. Scott have had two children, Marshall Logan, born on October 27, 1909, and Margaret Jane, December 14, 1911.

Of the father of these two successful farmers, it may be said that William E. Scott was born on March 3, 1839, in Ohio, and died, June 20, 1885. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Emily L. Logan, was born on July 27, 1844, on the Logan homestead and died on the old farm, March 20, 1913, in the same room where she had been born and where she was married.

The late William H. Scott was a soldier in the Civil War, having served in Company K, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for three years. He was mustered out of service on October 27, 1864, after having served in many severe engagements, among which were the battles of Huntsville, Alabama, Chattanooga, Stone's River, Murfreesborough, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain and all of the battles of the Atlanta campaign.

Of the six children born to William H. and Emily L. (Logan) Scott, two are deceased, Edward Thomas, born in 1866, and Edith Margaret, in 1868, both dying in infancy. The living children are Fred G., born in 1871,

who is a farmer in Decatur county; Nannie Lillian, in 1878, who is the wife of Samuel Goddard, of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Walter and Robert, the subjects of this sketch.

Emily Logan was the daughter of John E. and Eliza (Kerrick) Logan, the former of whom was twice married, the first time to Hattie N. Anderson, a sister of "Uncle Billy" Anderson, who was born in 1812, in Kentucky, and who bore him three children, George Douglas, who died in infancy; Margaret J., in 1837, who resides with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scott, and Mary Anderson, in 1839, and died in 1872, who was the wife of John W. Gillespie, a well-known merchant of Greensburg, now deceased.

Margaret J. Logan, who was educated in the Springhill schools, received an academic education and taught school for twenty-four years. Her school was a famous one on account of the many skilled teachers who presided over it. She also taught for seven years at College Corner. Miss Logan, who is now "seventy-seven years young," is a bright and capable woman and is well known in this community.

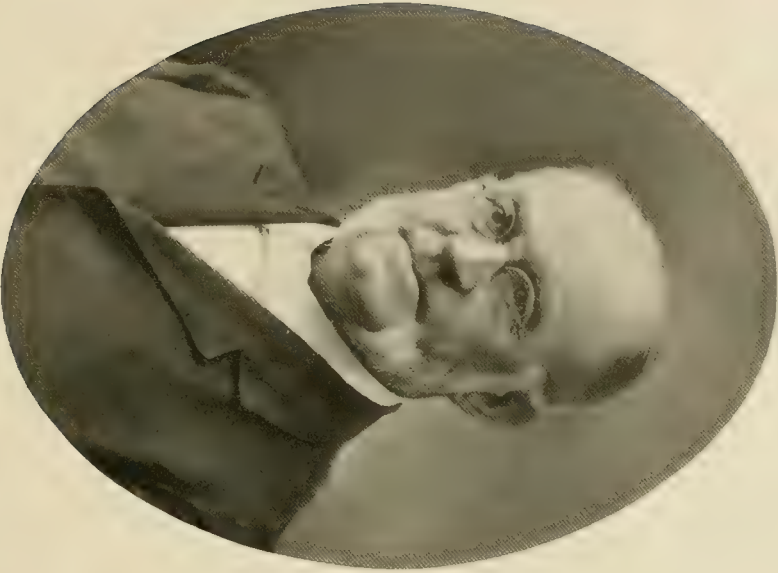
The second wife of John E. Logan, who was born in 1812, and who died in 1899, was Eliza Kerrick. She was born in 1816 and died in 1893. Born near Lexington, Kentucky, John E. Logan was the son of George Logan, who was born in Pennsylvania about 1780 and whose wife, Margaret Robinson, was also born in Pennsylvania. George Logan and wife emigrated to Kentucky and their son, John E., after a time, left Kentucky and emigrated to White county, Illinois, from whence he came to Decatur county, Indiana, purchasing a farm in Fugit township in 1833. He bought one hundred and sixty acres of land for six hundred dollars, but eventually owned three hundred and twenty acres, which became the Logan homestead. By his second marriage, there were born six children, Mrs. Emily Scott, the mother of Walter and Robert Scott; Nancy Ann, born in 1847, died in 1876; James H., in 1849, died in 1851; Lillian Esther, in 1852, died in 1889, who was the wife of Rev. J. A. Thomson, the president of Tarkio College; Charles E., in 1858, died in 1859, and Rev. William W., in 1860, who now resides in Louisville, Kentucky, where he is pastor of a Presbyterian church.

Of Robert Scott it may be said further that he was educated in the Kingston schools, the Clarksburg high school and Tarkio College, where he spent one year. He has been farming in this neighborhood since he quit school. In 1913 he moved to his present farm and has established in this community an excellent reputation of a farmer and business man. Politically, he is identified with the Republican party. He and his wife and family are members of the Springhill United Presbyterian church.

## JOHN H. ALEXANDER, M. D.

It is an honor of no mean importance to have become, in point of years and service, the oldest physician in Decatur county, a distinction which belongs to John H. Alexander, M. D., a veteran of the Civil War, the son of a well-known pioneer physician of the Middle West who is descended, on his mother's side, from an old and distinguished English family which established itself in America during the early part of the eighteenth century. Having come to Indiana some time before the breaking out of the Civil War, he has practiced his profession continuously, in this state, at Milford and Greensburg, until within three years ago, when he practically quit the more active practice.

John H. Alexander was born on November 7, 1828, at Palestine, Illinois, and is the son of Dr. John C. and Nancy (Wilson) Alexander, natives of Kentucky and Virginia, respectively. The former, who was born in Montgomery county, Kentucky, on August 1, 1797, became a student at Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky, and began the practice of his profession with his old preceptor, Doctor Walker, of Mt. Sterling, when twenty years of age. Locating in Palestine, Illinois, in 1822, eleven years later he was appointed registrar of the land office at Danville, Illinois, and held that office until his death, August 7, 1841. A successful stump speaker, during General Jackson's two campaigns he traveled throughout the entire state of Illinois as a campaign orator and, as a reward for his services to the Democratic party, was elected and served three terms as joint representative from Crawford, Clark and Lawrence counties in the Illinois General Assembly. As a delegate to one of the Illinois state conventions, he introduced Stephen A. Douglas, as a speaker, when the convention was being held at Vandalia. In fact, Dr. John C. Alexander was a staunch friend of Mr. Douglas. Professionally, he was regarded as a very successful man. His wife, who was Nancy Wilson before her marriage, was born in Harding county, Virginia, on March 26, 1802, and died, January 24, 1884, at Clifty, Illinois, at the residence of her son, Dr. John H. She was the daughter of James Wilson, who was born in Hardin county, Virginia, in 1768, and who, on October 1, 1815, left Virginia for Ohio. At Brownstown, in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, he bought a flat-boat for one hundred dollars and sent his goods and family down the river by boat, he and his wife taking the six horses overland. Arriving in Hamilton county, the latter part of the month, where James had purchased a farm on a stream known as Dry run, they established a home. Mrs. Nancy Alexander's father, James Wilson, was the son of Moses Wilson,



DR. AND MRS. JOHN H. ALEXANDER.







a native of the north of England, born near the Scottish line, who married Anna Blackburn. Their children were, Nancy, Mary Ann, Vastine, Benjamin, James Harvey, Elizabeth, Isaac Newton, Presley C., Jeretta and Marie.

Dr. John C. Alexander and Nancy Wilson were married, August 27, 1822, and were the parents of seven children, Angeline, born on May 10, 1823, who married Rev. Erastus Thayer; John H., David Wesley, March 4, 1830, died in September, 1863; James Wilson, Jr., May 12, 1837, died on January 2, 1854; Nancy Jane, October 16, 1832, who married Jacob Harness; William Fethian and Guy Smith, twins, at Danville, Illinois, December 4, 1839. William F. died on October 7, 1847, and Guy Smith became a lawyer and, during the Civil War, was second lieutenant in Company F, Sixty-second Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Subsequently, he was promoted to first lieutenant, captain and major and was mustered out of the service as inspector-general, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, November 30, 1865. At this time he was not twenty-one years old.

Educated in the country schools of Illinois and at Danville, that state, after his father's death, Dr. John H. Alexander moved to Palestine, Illinois, where he attended the Parrish Academy and later the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati. In these times the schools were very crude, especially the buildings in which they were housed. He crossed the plains to California in 1850, by mule team, during the gold fever and spent eight years in the West. Locating in Decatur county, July 7, 1858, for the practice of his profession, four years later, on September 27, 1862, he enlisted in the Twenty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Col. Silas Colgrove, and was promoted to surgeon, July 15, 1864, having been commissioned assistant surgeon, September 27, 1862. He was mustered out of service on November 4, 1864.

In December, 1860, Doctor Alexander was married to Mary Tarkington, who was born on February 25, 1834, in Greensburg, Indiana, a daughter of Rev. Joseph Tarkington, a well-known pioneer minister of the Methodist church. Mary Tarkington attended Mrs. Larabee's school for young ladies at Greencastle, Indiana, from 1848 to 1851, in which latter year she graduated. Mrs. Larabee was the wife of Prof. William Larabee of Asbury College, now DePauw University. She is an aunt of the well-known Indiana author, Booth Tarkington. Dr. and Mrs. Alexander have had two children, John T., who lives in Greensburg, and Joseph H., a traveling drug salesman of Springfield, Illinois. John T., who also is a traveling salesman, married Claudia Hill. Joseph H. married Myrilla Anderson and they have one child, Margaret June.

A practicing physician in Decatur county ever since the close of the Civil War, Doctor Alexander served fourteen years as secretary of the board of pension examiners. A Republican in politics, he served as secretary of the county board of health for over ten years. He was a member of the county and state medical societies and also a delegate to the American Medical Association in 1882. He was also in charge of the Odd Fellows' home for six and one-half years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having joined that order in 1874, and is a charter member of Milford Lodge. Doctor and Mrs. Alexander are prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Greensburg, where the Doctor has lived in his present fine home since 1892.

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#### HUGH THOMAS McCracken.

Hugh Thomas McCracken is one of the well-known, thrifty and successful farmers of historic old Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, who owns two hundred and forty-five acres of well-cultivated land, well located, fertile and highly productive. He is, in the most exacting interpretation of the term, a twentieth century farmer, and one who, because he knows how to farm, has always been satisfied to live in the country and to enjoy life in the open with his wife and children for his nearest and closest companions. Having built a comfortable home many years ago, the McCracken family is well situated to enjoy all the comforts and conveniences of country life, and they are among the most intelligent, up-to-date and progressive people of a township, which in pioneer times has furnished the bone and sinew that has made Decatur county famous in the Hoosier state.

Hugh Thomas McCracken was born on November 22, 1843, on the farm where he now lives, the son of John James and Sarah Ann McCracken, the former of whom was born on October 6, 1820, and who died in 1878. He was a son of James and Sally (Meek) McCracken, and was brought to Decatur county, Indiana, by the parents when three years old. James McCracken, who was born on November 6, 1787, in Kentucky, who married Sally Meek, born in August, 1784, settled on land in the neighborhood of his grandson's farm, was a tanner by trade and learned to write by marking on leather. An elder in the Social Reformed Presbyterian church, he was well known during his day and generation. He and his wife had seven children, Hugh T., born on December 19, 1810, died in infancy; Thomas,

April 12, 1812, married Nancy Patton; Elizabeth, March 12, 1814, married Samuel L. Anderson; Martha, May 12, 1815, became the wife of John Kincaid; Sally Ann, September 26, 1817, married Thomas Meek, October 4, 1838. John J. was the father of Hugh Thomas McCracken; Adam R., May 30, 1824, and married Mary J. Rankin, March 13, 1851.

Reared on the pioneer farm of his father, John J. McCracken eventually settled on the farm and lived where James Maxwell now lives. He was widely known, especially as one of the foremost Democrats of Decatur county, and as a member of the Social Reformed Presbyterian church. John J. and Sarah Ann McCracken had ten children, William David died in 1913; Hugh Thomas is the subject of this sketch; Martha is the wife of Samuel Stewart, of Rushville, Indiana; Mary died in youth; Benjamin B. lives in Rush county; James, who was twice married, by his second marriage to Mary Spillman, had four children; Newton Jasper lives in Shelbyville; John Wilson and Gilbert Gordon live in Alabama; Mrs. Myrta Ann Foley lives in Greensburg.

Educational facilities were considerably limited during the boyhood and youth of Hugh Thomas McCracken, and his education was confined to a limited attendance at Springhill and Mt. Carmel schools. As soon as he was old enough, he assisted his father with the farm work on the old homestead farm and when he was married moved into the old house standing on his farm. By purchasing his sister's interest, he received eighty acres of his father's land, which by diligence and careful management and long and arduous toil, he has increased to two hundred and forty-seven acres. He now owns practically all of the old home place.

On October 27, 1864, Mr. McCracken was married to Martha L. Kincaid, who was born on May 24, 1841, in Fugit township, and who is the daughter of John and Priscilla (Alexander) Kincaid, natives of Kentucky. The latter, who was reared in Rush county, Indiana, was the daughter of John Alexander, who was born in 1813, and who died in April, 1895. It was a son of John Kincaid who entered the Kincaid land in 1821, and established a home in 1829. By his first marriage, John Kincaid had two children, Mrs. Martha L. McCracken, and Mary, deceased, the wife of David Martin, deceased; another child, John Alexander, born to this first marriage, had died in infancy. The mother dying in 1844, John Kincaid was married, a second time, to Nancy Alexander, sister of his first wife, who bore him seven children, John Andrew, deceased; Mrs. Priscilla Jane McCoy, of Fugit township; Rhoda Margaret, deceased; John Andrew, who died at



the age of twenty-one; William Jasper, of near Springhill; Gilbert Gordon, who lives on the home place, and Cyrus, deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McCracken four children have been born, Cynthia Ann, the wife of Rufus Moore, who has four children, Lillian Ellen, Walter Thomas, Mary Ann; Ellen Moore married Thomas Kitchin, of Fugit township, and they have one son, John Robert; Sarah Helen married the Rev. Fred Schmunk, of Moorefield; Mary E. married Fern Power, who is now deceased, and who left one child, Ruth; Wilma Orta married James Maxwell, and lives on the old homestead in Fugit township; they have one son, William Thomas.

Politically, Mr. McCracken is a prominent leader in the councils of the Democratic party in Decatur county, and especially in Fugit township, where he lives. Mr. and Mrs. McCracken and family are members of the United Presbyterian church at Springhill.

The career of Hugh T. McCracken, it must be conceded, measures up well with the services of his distinguished ancestors, who were pioneers in this county, since he has, with somewhat better opportunities than were enjoyed by his forefathers, established a comfortable home, and reared a family of children to equally honorable and useful lives. From the standpoint of service the enterprising thrifty cultivation of his farm in Fugit township is sufficient to entitle him to honorable mention as a citizen of this great county.

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### SAMUEL L. JACKSON.

One of the most picturesque farms and one of the most magnificent country homes to be found anywhere in Decatur county, is located in Washington township, and comprises four hundred and eighty acres of fertile land, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Jackson, well-known citizens of this county. With a thoroughly modern home and beautiful, well-kept grounds, shaded by giant trees, especially neat and attractive driveways, this attractive farm bespeaks the intelligence, industry and fine appreciation of country life by its owners and proprietors. Descended from two of the very oldest families of Decatur county, they not only are among the most prosperous and influential people to be found anywhere in the county, but the family is living up to the ideals of the worthy progenitors, who during their day and generation were also leading citizens of the county.

Samuel L. Jackson, who was born on February 2, 1846, at Cincinnati,

Ohio, is the son of William and Amelia (Hillman) Jackson, natives of Virginia and Maryland, respectively, the former of whom was born on October 13, 1797, and who died in 1869, and the latter of whom was born on January 31, 1805, and who died, March 6, 1882. They were married, July 19, 1823. Left an orphan at a tender age, William Jackson left his southern home, and made his way to Cincinnati, where he arrived in 1831. Here for a time as a protegee of Nicholas Longworth I, he worked at the tailor trade and also engaged in teaming. While living in Cincinnati, he met with an accident in which he lost his left leg below the knee. One of his boyhood ambitions having been to own a farm, in 1846 he settled on a tract of land in Fugit township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, and two years later sold it and moved to a farm near Milford. Here he prospered beyond any expectations of his boyhood, and beyond any dreams or fancies of his early life, reaching a position of influence in the community, and passing away, June, 1869, at the age of seventy-two, rich in experience and rich in possessions of this world's goods. Of the thirteen children born to William and Amelia (Hillman) Jackson, only one, Samuel L., the subject of this sketch, and the youngest child of the family, is now living. The children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: Mrs. Sarah Ann (Porter) Alden, born on February 20, 1825; James Henry, April 26, 1827; William Thomas, October 3, 1828; Rebecca Frances, April 9, 1830; Henry Jackson, February 11, 1832; Mary Elizabeth, October 3, 1832; Mrs. Christe Ann Woodward, June 30, 1835; Mrs. Amelia Priscilla Marlow, March 14, 1837; Mrs. Louisa Layton Clark, October 28, 1838; John White, April 7, 1840; Mrs. Mary Hester Porter, March 24, 1842; Henrietta, May 21, 1844, and Samuel Latta, February 2, 1846.

That Samuel L. Jackson's progress and prosperity as a farmer are just rewards of his generous and unselfish kindness to a mother and children of a deceased sister, cannot be denied. Educated in the country schools, he lived with his mother until forty years old, and in 1886, the same year his sister, Mrs. Porter, died, he brought his mother and three sons of his departed sister to the farm, two miles west of Greensburg.

Later on in the same year, September 9, 1886, Mr. Jackson was married to Mary Hamilton, the daughter of Robert Marshall and Mary (Morgan) Hamilton, who was born on October 8, 1848, and who at the time of their marriage was two years her husband's junior. After his marriage, Mr. Jackson moved to the farm owned by Robert Marshall Hamilton, the old home place.

Robert Marshall Hamilton was born on November 17, 1811, and died

on August 6, 1901. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mary Morgan, was born in January, 1811, and died, February 3, 1884. They were married, September 26, 1834. He was the son of Robert Hamilton, who, in turn, was the son of William Hamilton. Robert Marshall Hamilton, who was born in Kentucky, came to Decatur county, Indiana, when twelve years old and lived in Washington township all his life. During his life he erected a large brick house on the Clarksburg turnpike in Washington township, and it is this house which has since been remodeled, until it is now one of the most beautiful and attractive farm homes in Decatur county. Of the five children born to Robert Marshall and Mary (Morgan) Hamilton only three are now living, Charles C. and Gerard are deceased; Thomas Woodson, the eldest child, lives in Greensburg; Mrs. Sarah Rankin lives in Washington township; Mrs. Samuel L. Jackson is the other living child. A very energetic man, Robert Marshall Hamilton provided well for his family, educated his children and amassed a fortune, owning at the time of his death, thirteen hundred acres of land. First an Abolitionist, then a Republican and still later a Prohibitionist, he was a man of pronounced views. It is an interesting fact that his home was an important station of the underground railway, and that he sheltered many runaway slaves during his life, narrowly escaping trouble and damages on several occasions. A member of the Presbyterian church, in the latter part of his life he gave freely of his wealth to various educational institutions, and during his day and generation had, perhaps, more to do with the educational progress of this county than any other man.

To Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Jackson have been born three children, all of whom are living at home with their parents, Robert Hamilton, on January 29, 1889; Louise, November 29, 1892, and Amelia, February 12, 1894. These children attended the district schools and finished their school work in Purdue University and Oberlin College.

All the members of the Jackson family are identified with the Kingston Presbyterian church. Mrs. Jackson is a member of the Independent Club, and her daughters of the Department Club and of the Kingston Progress Club. Robert Hamilton, the only son, is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Jackson joined the Greensburg Lodge of Odd Fellows No. 103, when twenty-one years of age, and has been a member all his life. Formerly a Republican in politics, he identified himself with the new Progressive party at its formation and has been active in its councils in Decatur county. All the members of the Jackson family are well known and prominent socially in Greensburg and Decatur county. They are among the most hospitable citizens to be found anywhere in the county and well deserve the high social

regard and esteem bestowed upon them by the people of this county. Highly educated, cultured and refined, the Jackson family has added much to the wholesome community spirit and life of Washington township.

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### THOMAS J. KITCHIN.

Like his brother, Guy Kitchin, whose sketch is found elsewhere in this volume, Thomas J. Kitchin is one of the highly respected and influential citizens of Fugit township, and is deserving of all the good things that come to him in this life. He is a man who attends strictly to his own affairs, and believes in letting others have the same privileges that he requires for himself. He is broad-minded, full of sympathy for those in distress, and is generous in doing his part, when charity calls upon him.

Thomas J. Kitchin, of Fugit township, was born on September 11, 1890, on the home place, and is a son of Frank Benjamin Kitchin. Thomas J. is a farmer, and is proud of his vocation, in which he takes the utmost interest. His education was obtained, first at the public schools of Kingston, after which he spent two years at the Greensburg high school, and later attended the Central Business College, at Indianapolis. He began farming on August 1, 1912, on the one hundred and sixty acres of land belonging to his father, which he has improved with a new dwelling house, and a fine barn. He is a Republican, and a member of the United Presbyterian church at Springhill.

Frank Benjamin Kitchin, father of subject, was a native of Decatur county, and lived there all his life, until his removal to Indianapolis. His present address is Indianapolis, where he is in the stock business.

Thomas J. Kitchin was married on June 19, 1912, to Miss Lillian Ellen Moore, who was born in Fugit township. She is a daughter of Rufus and Anna (McCracken) Moore. Rufus Moore was born in Covington, Kentucky. He now lives in Fugit township. Mrs. Kitchin graduated from the Greensburg high schools in 1911, and attended Monmouth College at Monmouth, Illinois, for one year, at the end of which time she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Kitchin are members of the United Presbyterian church, where twelve families meet once a month for the purpose of discussing matters of general interest in the community in which they live. They have one son, John Robert Kitchin, born on April 30, 1913.

Rufus Sanford Moore was born on January 24, 1866, at Covington,



Kentucky, and is a son of Joseph W. and Mary Ann (Stevens) Moore. He was employed, when quite young, in a tin shop at Clarksburg, and later in a bank at Delphi, Indiana. After his marriage, he farmed for fifteen years in Rush county, and then came to Decatur county, and now resides on the McCracken farm. His wife is a daughter of Hugh McCracken, an old resident of Fugit township. They were the parents of the following children: Lillian Ellen (Kitchin), born on February 11, 1891; Walter, who is now farming, and Mary Ann, who is at home.

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### JASPER COBB.

One of the well-known retired farmers of Decatur county, Indiana, and one of the veterans of our great Civil War, is Jasper Cobb, who was born on August 5, 1847, in Washington township on a pioneer farm, and who is the son of Dyar and Elmira (Tremain) Cobb, the former of whom was born on August 6, 1807, died in 1900, and the latter of whom was born in 1810, and who died in 1885. Dyar Cobb was a native of Greensburg, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and the son of Joshua Cobb, of Colonial ancestry and of Welsh descent.

In 1818 Joshua Cobb and family came down the Ohio river by boat, and, after remaining for two years in Dearborn county, on account of the dry seasons, came on to Decatur county, where only two houses could be seen from the farm he entered, to which place, in the spring of 1821, he brought his family. Here on the Michigan trail, in Marion township, Joshua Cobb pre-empted land, blazing his way through the forest from Napoleon in Ripley county. He put up a brick shack against a huge poplar log for his first home, and then felled logs and built a cabin. A large and vigorous man, he died in 1860. His wife, who was a Miss Crawford before her marriage, died in 1864. His eight children, Willard, Dyar, John, Percy, Elkenah, Mrs. Maria Christy, Helen and Mrs. Martha Terhune, are all deceased, the last named dying in Illinois.

When Dyar Cobb attained his majority he cleared a farm on the Michigan road, and there reared his family. The owner of three hundred acres of land, he was prominent during his day and generation, but declined official preferment. He was a member of the Universalist church and a Republican in politics, casting his first vote, however, for the Whig candidates in 1828. Early in life he had learned the brick-burning trade, and followed



MR. AND MRS. JASPER COBB.



this trade occasionally. Of the twelve children born to Dyar and Elmira (Tremain) Cobb, all but four died in youth or infancy. Mrs. Nancy Hazelrigg, the eldest, died in 1905. Among the other children were: Mrs. O. C. Elder; Mrs. Martha Stewart, of Illinois; John, Nancy, Joshua, Harvey, Mary, Newton and Jasper.

At the age of sixteen years, Jasper Cobb enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in 1864, under Captain Joseph Drake and under Colonel Gavin, serving one hundred and twenty days. He enlisted, however, for only one hundred days. Mr. Cobb eventually came into possession of the old Cobb homestead of three hundred acres, but disposed of two hundred acres of the farm in 1906. He still has one hundred acres left. Until February 14, 1898, he was actively engaged in farming, and then removed to Greensburg.

In March, 1873, Jasper Cobb was married to Ann Eliza Montgomery. They had one child, Robert, who died at the age of four and one-half years. Mrs. Cobb, the daughter of John G. H. and Sarah (Shadrick) Montgomery, the former of whom was born on August 14, 1819, in Kentucky, a farmer by occupation, and one who was well educated and a natural genius. Mrs. Montgomery was born on May 8, 1813. In 1849 John G. H. Montgomery purchased a small farm, one and one-half miles southeast of Greensburg, and there established a home, increasing his acreage until he owned five farms. He is now deceased, having passed from this life in 1894. He and his wife reared a family of eight children. Of these children, Nancy Jane was born on November 1, 1840, married N. S. Potter, and died on April 8, 1870; Sarah E., January 25, 1842, who married Leonard McCune, died on March 5, 1874; Mary F., in 1844, married J. C. St. John, of Greensburg; Henry H., in 1846, was a soldier in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He lives in Zirich, Montana; Robert W., in 1848, died in Oregon on October 1, 1911; Ann Eliza married Mr. Cobb and is a talented and gracious woman; John Q., September 26, 1853, lives in Grants Pass, Oregon; George, in 1854, owns and operates a garage in Greensburg.

Of Mrs. Cobb's remote ancestry, it may be said that her great-grandfather, Hugh Montgomery, was born in 1760, in Ireland, and settled in Pennsylvania, and that he and his brother William were soldiers in the Revolutionary War. William was lost. A half-brother, George, also disappeared. Hugh Montgomery married Eva Hartman in 1784, a native of Germany. They had thirteen children, among whom were Mary, the wife of Alexan-



der Ganst; Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson; Thomas; Henry; Margaret; William; Sallie, and Hugh, Jr., the grandfather of Mrs. Cobb, who was born on August 29, 1797. While on a visit to Kentucky, he fell in love with a distant cousin, Elizabeth Montgomery, and married her, October 14, 1818. They resided in Shelby county, Kentucky, until 1830, when they came to Indiana, settling two miles north of Greensburg. Here they purchased a farm one mile southeast of Greensburg. The wife died, December 4, 1859. When Hugh Montgomery was sixty-six years old he enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, but was refused admission in the army on account of his age. He died, April 22, 1872. His son, John G. H. Montgomery, the father of Mrs. Cobb, who married Sarah Shadrick, died in 1898.

Of Mrs. Cobb it may be said that she is a talented woman, and one who is well known in this section for her beautiful poem, the "Old Homestead." She also is the author of that portion of the Montgomery genealogy which deals especially with the Montgomerys of Decatur county, Indiana. Mr. Cobb is a Republican, a member of the Baptist church and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is also a member of Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic, at Greensburg, Indiana. Mrs. Cobb is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Lone Tree Chapter, of which she has been active as a charter member and she was the second treasurer of the chapter.

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#### THOMAS DUFFEY.

Not very far from the city of Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, and located in Washington township, is a beautiful farm of two hundred and four acres, known as the Prairie View farm, and where the passerby may see, sitting well back from the much-traveled thoroughfare, a large frame barn, of modern construction, and an old-time brick house. Since February 18, 1910, this has been the home of Mrs. Anna (Koors) Duffey and children. The buildings are set well within a wide and spacious lawn with numerous trees to break the monotony of the landscape and to furnish abundant shade during the hot days of an Indiana summer.

This farm was purchased by the late Thomas Duffey three years before his death. During his life, Thomas Duffey was one of the best-known farmers and stockmen of Decatur county. He was born on October 10, 1857, and died, September 23, 1907, having almost reached the half century

mark. His parents, Patrick and Bridget Duffey, natives of Ireland, emigrated to Decatur county, and settled on a farm, their son being reared here and educated in the schools of Decatur county, especially in the Milhausen neighborhood. At one time Patrick Duffey kept a grocery in Cincinnati, but later removed from Cincinnati to the Milhausen neighborhood, two miles from Milhausen, where the late Thomas Duffey was reared and where he was married.

During his lifetime, Thomas Duffey owned several farms. He first purchased a farm of eighty acres in the Milhausen neighborhood, and after living there for eight years, removed to Milhausen and engaged in the live stock business for two years, when he moved to the McCoy farm, where he lived for eight years, finally purchasing the farm. He then bought the Hazelrigg property, near Greensburg, and lived there from 1898 until 1907, the time of his death. In cultivating his various farms and from the live stock business he was able to save considerable money and was regarded as a very successful man.

At the time of his death, the late Thomas Duffey left a widow and six children. His wife, Mrs. Anna (Koors) Duffey, to whom he was married, February 12, 1884, was born in Cincinnati on March 28, 1862, the daughter of Barney and Anna (Fernerding) Koors, natives of Germany. Mrs. Duffey's father, a cooper and mill-wright by trade, removed to Decatur county and settled in the Milhausen neighborhood in 1865, farming there for eight years. The mother died in 1873, and after her death, her husband operated a mill and a mercantile store in Milhausen, until the mill burned. He kept the store, however, until his death, December 20, 1907, when he was seventy-eight years old.

Of the six children left by Thomas Duffey at the time of his death, the Rev. Charles Duffey is the assistant pastor of St. Anthony's parish, at Indianapolis; Bernard, who was born on April 2, 1888, is managing the Prairie View farm; Alfred, October 25, 1890; Hilda, December 6, 1893, is at home with her mother; Clarence, February 12, 1896, died on June 18, 1909; Robert, the youngest child, January 2, 1900.

After removing to the Washington township farm in 1910, Mrs. Duffey and her sons erected a magnificent fine barn in 1911, and in 1914 they erected a modern silo. The Prairie View farm is one of the best to be found in Decatur county—the best, not only from the standpoint of its general appearance, but from the standpoint of the fertility of the soil. In 1914 the forty acres of corn raised on the farm produced two thousand bushels. Mrs. Duffey and her sons feed and sell seventy to one hundred and fifty head of hogs every year, and about a carload of cattle. Every bushel of grain raised

on the farm is fed to live stock, and last year it was necessary to buy one thousand bushels to feed out the stock. One might search the length and breadth of Decatur county and still fail to find young men who are more progressive in their notions and methods of agriculture and more enterprising and thrifty than the sons of the late Thomas Duffey. At the time of his death, he was a member of the St. Mary's Catholic church, and Greensburg Council No. 1652, Knights of Columbus. In fact, the Duffey family are all members of the Catholic church, and loyal and devout in this faith.

With earnest purpose and a sense of the responsibility, Mrs. Duffey and her children have taken up and carried forward the work of the deceased husband and father, a man who, by his industry, energy and good management, was able to provide well for his widow and children. A man of most loving disposition, his memory is revered not only by the members of his immediate family, but by those who knew him as a successful farmer and stockman, and by those who had any relations with him in a business or social way. His passing was a distinct loss to the citizenship of this county.

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#### THOMAS H. STEVENSON.

The late Thomas H. Stevenson, who was well known as a business man in Decatur county, Indiana, and who was a leader in the political circles of this county, was a man who, as far as he was able to do so, lived by the Golden Rule.

The late Thomas H. Stevenson was born on August 11, 1854, the son of Thomas and Eliza (Abrams) Stevenson, and died on December 16, 1914. His father, the son of Scottish parents, lived and died in Dearborn county. In 1871 Thomas H. came to Greensburg as deputy internal revenue collector under the late Will Cumback, and held this position for eleven years, or until 1882, when he resigned to enter the produce commission business in Cincinnati with Gilette Stevenson, who was a former revenue collector. After being in Cincinnati for three years, he returned to Greensburg in 1885 and took charge of the Emmert Flouring Mill, relieving his father-in-law, the late John Emmert, whose health had failed. After being in charge of this mill until it changed owners, he engaged in the brokerage business, his own health having failed. In this latter business he was very successful and at this time his widow and son own the old Wooley farm in Decatur county, a farm which consists of one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved and highly productive land.

On January 13, 1879, Thomas H. Stevenson was married to Elizabeth Emmert, who was born on July 10, 1855, in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and who is the daughter of John and Catherine (Seitz) Emmert, natives of Mannheim, Germany, and Alsace-Lorraine, respectively.

There were three eventful years in the career of John Emmert. In 1845 he came to America with his parents and located at Trenton, New Jersey, and eight years later, in 1853, he located in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, where he married Catherine Seitz and thirteen years later, in 1866, he moved to Greensburg, Indiana, where most of his fortune was acquired. During his life at Greensburg, he built and operated the Garland mills. He was an excellent miller and understood not only the business phase of milling, but the technical and manufacturing end as well. A Democrat in politics and for some time a councilman in Greensburg, John Emmert was an influential man in Decatur county, public-spirited, progressive, industrious and, in his later life, very wealthy. He was also prominent as a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Catherine Seitz had come to America with her parents when four years old in 1838, when they first located at Hamilton, Ohio, but her father, Christopher Seitz, later moved to Dearborn county, where he became a farmer. John Emmert died in 1882, his wife surviving him many years and passing away in 1909.

To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Stevenson was born one son, Emmert C., who was born on May 21, 1891, and who was educated in the Greensburg public schools, the Greensburg high school and Purdue University at Lafayette. After graduating from the electrical engineering department of Purdue University, he returned to his home in Decatur county and is now manager of the home farm.

During his entire life, Mr. Stevenson was more or less actively identified with Republican politics in Decatur county and the fourth congressional district. During very late years, however, he was inclined toward the new Progressive party. In this section of the state, he was known as a far-seeing political leader and manager, although he personally never sought office, but he looked after the interest of his party in this section of the state and it was well known by state leaders that his pledges of support and promises of services could be depended upon absolutely. A member of the Greensburg lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, he was very prominent in this organization, and if any man who has lived in Decatur county within recent years has followed the Golden Rule as a model for the relationship of life, it was the late Thomas H. Stevenson.



## JAMES A. MYERS.

Of the many magnificent farms to be found on the widely traveled highway, a few miles southwest of Greensburg, is one of eighty acres owned by James A. Myers, one of the well-known farmers of Washington township.

James A. Myers, who was born on July 22, 1847, on Sand creek, in a log cabin in the wilderness, is the son of William H. and Elizabeth M. (Annie) Myers, the former of whom was born on August 6, 1824, and who died, August 8, 1904, and the latter of whom was born on June 29, 1827, died May 1, 1900. Born in Kentucky, the late William H. Myers was a son of George and Margaret (Harmon) Myers, also natives of Kentucky, the former, who came to Decatur county about 1832, took up a tract of timber land on Sand Creek, and there cleared a place for a house and established a home. He died at the age of eighty-nine years. Reared in a pioneer settlement, the late William H. Myers lived with his father for many years after his marriage. In 1857 he sold the farm situated on Sand Creek and purchased the farm now known as the Davis homestead, near Horace, where he lived for several years, eventually selling out and removing to Kansas, where he lived for fifteen years. At the end of this period he returned to Decatur county and there died.

William H. and Elizabeth (Annis) Myers had ten children, two of whom are deceased. Of their children, James A. is the subject of this sketch; George M. lives in Sand Creek township; John Thomas, born on October 21, 1851, lives in Clay township, Decatur county; William R., July 24, 1854, died in infancy; Mrs. Alice B. Sanderson, July 21, 1857, died on September 11, 1897, near Forest Hill; Eliza L., February 21, 1859, lives in Webb City, Missouri; Harvey M., October 18, 1861; Merritt E., November 25, 1864, lives in Oklahoma; Mrs. Ida M. Johnson, September 11, 1867, lives in Indianapolis, as does her sister, Mrs. Nancy N. Berry, born on September 26, 1871.

Starting out in life for himself at the age of twenty-one, James A. Myers was married, October 21, 1868, to Martha E. Wynkoop, daughter of James and Barbara (Hedrick) Wynkoop, of Sand Creek township. Mrs. Myers was born on July 24, 1848, near Laurel, in Franklin county, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Myers have had two children, Jennie F., who was born on November 3, 1869, married William N. Gartin, the son of Zack Gartin, October 22, 1899, and Effie B., October 31, 1877, married Norman Eubanks, of Greensburg, and they have one child, Gilbert Dale, aged nineteen.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers owned thirty-five acres of land in Clay township,

where they lived until April, 1869 (after their marriage), when they removed to Sand Creek township and there lived until 1903. At that time they sold out and purchased a farm near Greensburg, comprising eighty acres of land, where they have now lived for twelve years.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Myers comes from a long line of ancestors who have been prominent Democrats in the respective communities where they have lived. Although a Democrat in national and perhaps state politics, Mr. Myers is not a hide-bound partisan and votes independently in local affairs. He served two terms as justice of the peace of Sand Creek township. Mr. and Mrs. Myers are members of the Baptist church at Liberty. They are active workers in church affairs. Here in the neighborhood where they have lived these many years, they are highly respected citizens, honored for their quiet and unassuming manners, for their native intelligence and sympathetic interest in the welfare of the community as a whole. Mr. Myers is a man of sterling integrity, scrupulous in all the dealings of life, and well known in different parts of Decatur county.

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#### FRANK C. STOUT.

In selecting his life work, Frank C. Stout chose something that would give pleasure to his friends, as well as to himself. He might have had in mind, also, the fact that music, more than any other factor in life, has a charm, toned with sweetness, harmony and rhythm to a degree understood by everyone, and to a great measure helpful and uplifting not only to the toiler but to the artist as well. While the traditional writer has said that "music hath charms to soothe the savage breast," it might have added, "and draw all men together in a state of peace and happiness." However, the success with which Mr. Stout has met, is sufficient proof of his efficiency as a piano tuner, and his ability as a musician, a combination which has brought him in good returns.

Frank C. Stout, piano dealer and tuner, of Greensburg, Indiana, was born in that city, in June, 1878, the son of Wiley J. Stout. Subject was reared and educated in the public schools of Greensburg. In young manhood he studied medicine, thinking to follow that profession, but his artistic nature outweighed this desire and, about 1905, he began tuning pianos, and later opened salesrooms in Greensburg, where he handles a fine line of the French & Sons and Busch & Geits pianos, in which he does a thriving business. His store is one of the most attractive of its kind in the city.

Wiley J. Stout was born in Decatur county and died about 1895. He was a son of Harvey P. Stout (see Stout genealogy in the sketch of John F. Robbins, elsewhere in this volume). At an early age, Wiley J. Stout learned the carpenter trade, in which he became very skillful, and at which he worked all his life. He was united in marriage to Octavia Lloyd, who is also deceased. Frank C. Stout is their only child now living. He is a strong advocate of the principles of the Progressive party, is an exceptional musician, and is especially proficient on the piano. His host of admiring friends, who have done their part in aiding him to build up his business, speaks well for his popularity.

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### JAMES CARTER McLAUGHLIN.

The offspring of a pioneer family of Decatur county, Indiana, the late James Carter McLaughlin, a veteran of the Civil War and a well-known farmer and stockman of this county during his life, gained almost national fame as a breeder of trotting horses which were especially well known throughout the state of Indiana. Not only was he a successful farmer and stockman, but he was well known as a citizen and public-spirited man of affairs. He lived to rear a large family of children, who were given the very best educational advantages and who, now that he is gone, revere the memory of a loving and kind father.

The late James Carter McLaughlin, proprietor of Ash Grove stock farm in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, and later of the old homestead farm of three hundred acres, was born on January 27, 1831, in Decatur county, and passed away, January 4, 1894, the son of George and Sarah (Carter) McLaughlin, who were born and married in Mason county, Kentucky, and who, after their marriage, in 1827, came the same year to Decatur county, where they entered government land.

George and Sarah (Carter) McLaughlin, the former of whom was an intelligent and highly respected citizen, progressive in spirit and successful in business, were the parents of eight children, only four of whom grew to maturity. Of these children, James C. is the subject of this sketch; Mary Frances, deceased, was born on February 1, 1829, and married Zachariah T. Riley, April 13, 1853; Elizabeth Ann was the wife of Thomas M. Hamilton, deceased, who now lives on North East street, Greensburg, Indiana, and Casper Wooster died in the state of California.

The father of these children was an ardent Republican during his life.

He spent his declining years at the home of his son, the late J. C. McLaughlin. The father was born on September 24, 1802, and died, October 29, 1885. His wife, Sarah (Carter) McLaughlin, was born on August 18, 1804, and died July 20, 1873. They were married, April 10, 1827.

After living at home on his father's farm and performing the work ordinarily falling to the lot of the average country boy during the earlier years of the history of this county, James Carter McLaughlin enlisted in 1861 in the Wilder battery, later the Independent battery, and served four years as a soldier in the Civil War. At the siege of Knoxville he was taken seriously ill and was unable to serve for some time. He was in many battles and sieges, including those at Somerset, Kentucky, and Harpers Ferry, where the battery was captured. James C. was later exchanged at Indianapolis. Afterward the battery saw active service in Kentucky and Tennessee, and was on the firing line until the close of the war.

Immediately after the close of the Civil War, Mr. McLaughlin was married, March 14, 1866, to Louisa Davidson, who was born on December 25, 1839, in Decatur county, Indiana, and who is the daughter of Isaac and Jennie (Miller) Davidson, natives of Nicholas county, Kentucky, and Monroe county, Virginia, respectively. Isaac Davidson, who was born in 1802, and who died in July, 1855, came to Decatur county, Indiana, when a young man, and worked for seven and one-half dollars a month. Coming here in 1827, he eventually owned a fine farm in Clinton township. Mrs. Jennie (Miller) Davidson, who was born in 1809, and who died in 1905, at the age of ninety-six years, was the daughter of John Miller, who came to Decatur county in 1814, and after settling near Clarksburg, was engaged in burning brick. He had come down the river on a flat-boat, and at the time he passed Cincinnati, it was a mere hamlet. His nearest neighbors at the time were seven miles away. Indians were very numerous in the country. At this time his daughter, Jennie Miller, was only five years old, and she had accompanied him to this county.

Isaac and Jennie (Miller) Davidson had eight children, Mary, who married Sol Sharp, died in 1860; John, in 1833, resides on a farm near Hartville, Kansas; Elizabeth, who was born in 1835, became the wife of Henry Bird, deceased, and resides on Hendricks street, Greensburg; Margaret, in 1837, married Thomas Draper, who died in 1910, in Kansas; Louise, the widow of the late James Carter McLaughlin; Jane, February 2, 1841, always lived with her mother on Walnut street; Rhoda died at the age of twelve years, and Taylor died in his youth.

To Mr. and Mrs. James Carter McLaughlin six children were born, all



of whom are living, except one, Mary, who died at the age of thirty-eight years. The names of the children are as follow: Blanche; Orion D., Mary, Della, James Barton and Frances. Of these children, Blanche, a graduate of Indiana State University, lives on Lincoln street, Greensburg, Indiana; Orion D., a farmer, resides on East street. He owns three hundred and twenty acres of land; Della, a graduate of Purdue University, is the wife of W. H. Silver. They live at West Newton; James Barton, who lives on the old homestead, is a graduate of Purdue University, and married Margaret Miller. They have two children, James C. and William Graham; and Frances, a graduate of Purdue University, is the wife of S. W. Shirk, a well-known farmer of this county.

James Carter McLaughlin was a Republican, although he never took much interest in political affairs, while his good wife during her active life, was a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

As an enterprising man of business, a farmer and breeder, James Carter McLaughlin contributed materially to the progress and prosperity of Decatur county. He was a man necessarily of large vision, who could foresee large opportunities, and he possessed the executive skill, the capacity for details to carry out preconceived plans. He was the very soul of honor, loving and kind in the home, cordial and genial in all the relations of life, private or public.

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#### WILLIAM SMILEY.

Among the early settlers of pioneer days, in the second decade of the nineteenth century, with but few advantages, a sturdy native of the Keystone state, whose ambition was to cut out of the concrete of life something more than a mere pittance and who, like many another lad, had but a few hundred dollars with which to make a start, drinking at the fountain of perspective, was William Smiley, a man of unusual thrift, whose unflagging courage and persistence led him through the many vicissitudes of life to a field of prosperity and plenty. With an ambition to see that his posterity were well provided for, he was a man of keen perception, wrought out of the fact, no doubt, that he was self-educated, broad-minded and a man of sound judgment. It is pleasing, indeed, under all conditions in life to see any of the younger generations forge to the front, and even more so when the freshness of youth knows no failure and recognizes no defeat. As such an one, it is a pleasure to point to the life-work of William Smiley

with a sense of pride, as a man having utilized the opportunities as they came to him, molding them into a great success.

William Smiley, was born in February, 1814, and migrated with his parents from Pennsylvania to Butler county, Ohio, where they settled on a farm on which he grew to manhood. He was married in Butler county and, in the year 1849, came to this county, locating on a farm in Clay township. He became very prosperous, in time coming to own hundreds of acres of choice land in this county. Beginning life in Decatur county with a few hundred dollars as his capital, he managed his affairs so wisely and so prudently that he became one of the wealthiest men in the county. To each of his children he gave farms, in addition to which his daughters received nice sums of money upon reaching eighteen years of age. Despite the fact that he continued giving away his property, he left an estate of about sixty thousand dollars, an evidence of his ability as a financier. Mr. Smiley had few advantages in his youth and was a self-educated man, acquiring, by close observation and the constant exercise of his remarkable native talents, a fine general knowledge. He was an uncompromising Democrat and ever took an interest in the county's political affairs, long being recognized as one of the most active workers in his party in this county, a veritable "wheel-horse," in fact; his sound judgment and keen common sense giving large weight to his counsels in the deliberations of the party managers in Decatur county. He was a splendid horseman and it is still recalled that, on gala occasions, it was his wont to turn out, driving ten or a dozen horses in a team. In his later years he left the farm and moved to Greensburg, where his last days were passed in comfortable retirement, his death occurring on June 30, 1893, his widow surviving until July 8, 1896.

To William and Mary A. (Kenny) Smiley were born ten children, as follow: Mrs. Permelia Henry, deceased; Mrs. Caroline Sefton, widow of Edward B. Sefton, of Greensburg; George W. and James M. (twins), the former of whom died in 1907, and the latter of whom died in infancy; Harvey K., who died in January, 1915; Thomas K., a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county; William F., who resided in Greensburg; Mary, who died on August 17, 1914; S. P., who lives at El Campo (Texas) Hotel, and Margaret, widow of William A. Johnston.

Mrs. Margaret L. Johnston was born on a farm in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, on January 18, 1857, the daughter of William and Mary A. (Kennedy) Smiley, pioneers of this county, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter a native of New Jersey.

Upon her marriage to William A. Johnston in 1877, Mrs. Johnston moved from the paternal farm to Greensburg, where she ever since has made her home. Mr. Johnston was born in the town of Franklin, Johnson county, Indiana, on February 1, 1854, and died in February, 1907. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnston three children were born, Cora S., at home; Walter married Elizabeth Bates in 1910 and lives at Greensburg; and Raymond K., stenographer with the Big Four Railroad Company at Indianapolis.

Mrs. Johnston is held in the highest esteem in the social circles of Greensburg and is deeply interested in the general welfare of the entire community. She formerly was an active member of several local clubs.

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#### NELSON M. TEMPLETON.

Nelson M. Templeton, a retired citizen of Greensburg, Indiana, and one of the prominent and well-known men of Decatur county, was born on October 22, 1845, on a farm in Franklin county, the son of John and Elizabeth (Barnard) Templeton, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom died in September, 1899, and the latter of whom the daughter of David Barnard, of Pennsylvania, died on August 20, 1896. John Templeton was an early resident of Franklin county, the son of David Templeton, a pioneer settler of southeastern Indiana. The Templetons built a cabin on the east fork of the White Water, in Franklin county, or on Templeton's creek. In 1865 the family settled in Washington township, Decatur county, and here owned a good farm, comprising three hundred acres of well-improved land, located two miles south of Greensburg, which is known to this day as the Templeton farm, where both parents died. John Templeton was a Republican and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of the eight children born to John and Elizabeth (Barnard) Templeton, two are now deceased; Catherine is the wife of George Fiscus and resides one and one-half miles south of Greensburg, Decatur county; Nelson M. is the subject of this sketch; James W., who was born on December 22, 1847, died on May 1, 1901, at the age of fifty-two years, and had married Frances Stout, daughter of Joab and Rebecca Stout, who bore him the following children, Flora, Ella, Grace, Harry and Elizabeth; Robert and Edward were twins, the former of whom is deceased, and the latter resides south of Greensburg; Laura is the widow of Griffith Gartin, deceased; John lives

west of Greensburg in the Emington neighborhood, and Oliver married Ida Taylor, and is the proprietor of a machine shop.

Upon leaving home at the age of twenty-seven years, Nelson M. Templeton farmed near Adams for three years, and in 1875 moved to Letts Corner and purchased a farm, where he lived for ten years. Not liking this place, however, in 1885 he moved to Lebanon in Boone county, and purchased a partnership in a planing mill and builders' supply firm. In September of the next year, he returned to St. Paul and from there moved to Clifty, or Milford, and from Clifty to Franklin, Johnson county, where he remained for six years, during which time he was engaged in the carpenter trade. After his mother's death he removed to the old place, where he lived for three years, and rented a farm east of Greensburg for three years, subsequently removing to that city. During one and one-half years' residence in Greensburg, he purchased a part of the home estate of eighty-one acres, erected a house and barn, and moved his family to the farm. In 1909 he sold out and moved back to Greensburg.

On November 21, 1873, Nelson M. Templeton was married to Rachel Stark, who was born on November 4, 1852, in Decatur county, Indiana, and who is the daughter of Aden Boone and Eliza (Wallace) Stark, natives of Oldenburg, Kentucky, and Rockbridge county, Virginia, respectively. The former was the son of Caleb Stark, who married Anna Boone, a cousin of Daniel Boone. Caleb Stark, in fact, was a follower of Daniel Boone, and the son of Capt. John Stark, a soldier in the Revolutionary army. Caleb Stark was a member of the Decatur county board of commissioners when the court house was built. A number of the famous characters in the "Hoosier Schoolmaster" were modeled on members of Caleb Stark's family.

Aden Boone Stark, who was born on October 21, 1815, in Olden county, Kentucky, moved with his father to Decatur county in 1825. He was married to Eliza Wallace, September 7, 1837, and by her had nine children, among whom are the following: Percis Jane, deceased, who was the wife of Joseph Braden; John Caleb, of Clifty, Decatur county; Mary Ann, the wife of Cyrus Moore, of Clifty; Hannah Elizabeth, deceased; Charles, deceased; Mrs. Rachel Templeton; William, a farmer in Bartholomew county; and two children who died in infancy. Aden Boone Stark died on April 19, 1890. In this connection it is worth while to mention the fact that five of the eleven children born to Caleb Stark were natives of Kentucky, their names being Aden, George, Willett, Percis and Lovina.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson M. Templeton are members of the Baptist church. He is identified with the Republican party. A man well known in this sec-



tion, he is highly honored and respected by all who have come in contact with him, and especially his fellow townsmen in the city of Greensburg.

Nelson M. Templeton and wife have two children, Nellie, at home; and Perry William, a decorator at Indianapolis, who married Margaret Erhardt, and they have two children, Howard and Elizabeth.

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### JAMES PORTER.

Not many families in Decatur county have created a more distinct impression upon its affairs than has the well-known Porter family. This family has been represented in Decatur county since the early days of the settlement of this section of the state and wherever its members have been found, there they have been doing well those things toward which their energies were being directed. In the agricultural life, the industrial life, the religious life and the professional life of the community they have been active, the family having produced several notable leaders in these several departments of human endeavor. Prominent in good works, faithful in whatever service they were called upon to perform, either in public or private stations, the Porters have acquitted themselves in such fashion as to merit the continued confidence and esteem of the entire community, and it is a pleasure on the part of the biographer to bring to the attention of the reader at this point something regarding the beginnings of this family in Decatur county. For further details relating to the family, the reader is respectively referred to brief biographical sketches of the careers of Alexander Porter, the well-known contractor, and Dr. Edward A. Porter, brothers of the subject of this sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume.

James Porter was born on the farm on which he still is living, three and one-half miles southwest of the city of Greensburg, in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, on March 7, 1871, a son of Matthew E. and Clarissa (McKinney) Porter, both members of pioneer families of this county. Matthew E. Porter was born in the year 1836, his birth occurring in a log cabin which still is standing on the east half of the farm now owned by James Porter. He was the only son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Elder) Porter, the latter of whom was a daughter of the venerated Rev. Nathan Elder, a pioneer minister of the Baptist faith who exerted so strong an influence for good in pioneer days in this section of the state. Rev. Nathan Elder, a native of Kentucky, was a "circuit rider" of the old

school and his ministrations were extended far and near throughout this section of Indiana. He built the first church in Union county, Indiana, and for many years preached the gospel with a devotion that made his name and his works widely known.

Alexander Porter was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1799, the son of a Virginian, who, with his wife, penetrated the wilderness of Indiana Territory in an early day in the settlement of this section of the same. Upon reaching manhood's estate, Alexander Porter married Elizabeth Elder, who was born in Kentucky in 1813, and the pioneer couple went to housekeeping in the log cabin in which Alexander Porter was born, moving to this county in the year 1830 and establishing a new home in the then wilderness of Washington township. To this couple but two children were born, Matthew E. and a girl child, the latter of whom died at the tender age of four years. Matthew E. Porter succeeded to the home farm and lived there all his life, during which time he made but one change in residence, that being when he moved from the original eighty acres entered by his father to the west half of what now constitutes the fine Porter farm of two hundred and fifty-seven acres, owned jointly by James, Alexander and William R., grandsons of the original entrant. This move was made in 1892 and Matthew Porter died in 1908. Matthew Porter was an industrious and progressive farmer and was quite successful in his operations, at his death leaving a fine estate, wholly unencumbered. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Martha A., who married John McConnell and lives six miles south of Greensburg; Alexander, of Greensburg, member of the well-known firm of Pulse & Porter, building contractors, further mention of whom is made in this volume; John, deceased; William R., of the firm of Pulse & Porter, who has charge of that firm's extensive plant at Hope, Indiana; Elizabeth, deceased; James, the immediate subject of this sketch; Andrew, who is living retired in the city of Greensburg, this county; Barton, who died just as he was entering upon what gave promise of being a singularly successful career as a lawyer, and Dr. Edward A., the well-known and popular physician, of Burney, this county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

James Porter was reared on the home farm and has made the same his home all his life. He is a progressive farmer, having early discovered the value of adopting up-to-date methods in the operation of his extensive farming interests, and has prospered; now being recognized as one of the most substantial farmers in the county. His farm, which formerly was covered

with hard timber, walnut and maple predominating, is gently rolling and is under excellent cultivation. Mr. Porter gives much attention to the raising of fine hogs and in this branch of agriculture has been quite successful, his hogs ever bringing "the top of the market."

On July 20, 1899, James Porter was united in marriage to Mary L. Woodward, daughter of Isaac L. and Christina (Jackson) Woodward, members of prominent pioneer families of this county, and to this union two children have been born, Raymond G., who was born in 1903, and James Iver, who died in infancy.

Mr. Porter is a Democrat and takes such part in the political affairs of the county as is becoming in all good citizens, but never has been included in the office-seeking class, preferring to devote his time and his talents to his own extensive farming interests, rather than to the public service. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is warmly interested in the affairs of his home lodge. He and Mrs. Porter are prominent in the good works of their neighborhood and are held in the highest regard by all who know them.

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#### FRANK HAMILTON.

For nearly a century the Hamilton family have been prominent in the civic and political life of Decatur county. The founder of the family in this county was Cyrus Hamilton, who was born in Kentucky, July 4, 1800, and who was married, February 22, 1822, to Mary McCoy, having come to this county immediately after his marriage, and in this early day having become one of the prominent advocates of temperance and an opponent of slavery. Cyrus Hamilton was a prominent man in his day. Long before the issue of slavery was fought out on the bloody battlefields of the Civil War, he maintained a station of the "underground railroad" at his Decatur county home, and assisted scores of slaves to escape north from their southern masters. Of Scotch-Irish descent, he inherited all the sturdy traits of this racial combination, and, although he never held office, he was prominent as a debater of public questions, well read and well informed, as well as being very popular. During his life he was a member of the Sand Creek Presbyterian church and influential in that organization.

Frank Hamilton, a well-known attorney of Greensburg, Indiana, and member of the firm of Osborn & Hamilton, who was born on April 2, 1883, in Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, is the grandson of the well-



FRANK HAMILTON.





known Cyrus Hamilton and the son of Everett Hamilton, the youngest son of Cyrus Hamilton's family. Everett, who was born on October 16, 1841, and who received an excellent education in the Hartville (Indiana) schools and in Butler College at Indianapolis, at one time owned a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres in Decatur county. He sold it some years ago and is now living retired in Greensburg. On November 10, 1870, he was married to Mary J. Hopkins, daughter of Preston E. Hopkins, of Fugit township, by which marriage there were three sons born. Paul, the eldest son, was born on October 5, 1871, and is engineer of track and roadway for the Big Four railroad system and is stationed at Cincinnati; Edwin S., the second son, who was born on August 23, 1873, lives on the home farm in Fugit township; Frank is the youngest member of the family. Everett Hamilton, the father of these children, has also been prominent as a citizen and farmer in Decatur county, having served as trustee of Fugit township at one time and having for many years been a prominent and influential member of the Kingston Presbyterian church.

Reared on the Fugit township farm and educated in its common schools and later in the Clarksburg high school, where he spent three years, Frank Hamilton no doubt inherited from his father and his grandfather his strong tendency for a professional career. Although neither the father nor the grandfather may be said to have been professional men, yet in their relations of life they exhibited a marked tendency in this direction. Having left the Clarksburg high school after spending three years there, Mr. Hamilton pursued his education in Butler College at Indianapolis, where his father had attended school, and later spent three years in Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. During the first year he was a student in the literary department of the university, and during the succeeding two years was a student in the law department. Later, however, he was graduated from the Indiana Law School at Indianapolis, with the class of 1905, and immediately began the practice of his profession in Greensburg.

Upon receiving his degree from the Indiana Law School, Mr. Hamilton spent a year in the law office of Tackett & Wilson, and from 1907 to 1912 was engaged in the practice of law with Judge James K. Ewing, the senior member of the firm of Ewing & Hamilton. In 1912 he became a member of the firm of Osborn, Hamilton & Harding. Later, however, Mr. Harding withdrew from the firm and for two years Mr. Hamilton has been associated with Mr. Osborn under the firm name of Osborn & Hamilton. Having been appointed deputy prosecuting attorney under the administra-

tion of Prosecutor Albert W. Phillips, of Columbus, Indiana, in 1907, for two years he had charge of all of the work of the prosecutor's office in Decatur county. In 1912 he became county attorney.

Within a short time after establishing himself at Greensburg in the practice of law, Mr. Hamilton was married to Mary F. Isgrigg, of Greensburg, daughter of W. H. Isgrigg. The marriage took place, December 14, 1907. One son, William Everett, who was born on January 24, 1909, is the fruit of this marriage.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Hamilton has been prominent in the councils of the party in Decatur county for many years. During 1910 and 1912 he was secretary of the Decatur County Republican Central Committee. Fraternally, he is a member of Clarksburg Lodge No. 124, Free and Accepted Masons, and is past chancellor commander of Greensburg Lodge No. 148, Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, deputy grand chancellor for the fifteenth district, during 1913 and 1914; past exalted ruler of Greensburg Lodge No. 475, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and a member of the Grand Lodge of Elks.

It must be remembered that Frank Hamilton is a comparatively young man, that he has no more than just begun his career as an attorney in Decatur county. Nevertheless, he is today well established in his profession and his firm enjoys a lucrative practice in this county, a condition for which Mr. Hamilton himself is in no small way responsible. He is not only learned in the law, a wise counselor and a successful practitioner in court, but he is a man of engaging personality and extremely popular in this county.

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#### ADAM MEEK.

While an investment in land does not pay the largest returns upon the money invested, it is, however, the safest investment which any man can make, and while few of the great fortunes have been made from farming, when one considers the risk entailed in speculative financial adventures, the soil remains as the ever present inducement to those who are satisfied with reasonable profit. Industrial and financial stocks may rise or fall in value, but the price of land in this country, generally speaking, has fluctuated in only one direction. Its value has constantly increased from the time our forefathers digged out the first stump and plowed the first furrow to the present period with no appreciable exception. It is refreshing to know that

a considerable number of our citizens are willing to give the weight of their genius to the cultivation of the land and to accept the normal and steady profits which the ownership insures. Adam Meek, who began life with a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land, started in life by making farming his vocation, and has ever since been engaged in it. He now owns a magnificent farm of three hundred and seventy-five acres, all in one tract, and has devoted his life energy toward increasing its production to the maximum point. He is not only one of the most capable farmers of Decatur county, but he is one of its best citizens.

Adam Meek was born on August 30, 1850, in Clinton township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of John and Jane (Montgomery) Meek. John Meek, a well-known farmer and capitalist of Decatur county, of a past generation, was born in 1826, and passed away in 1908, at the age of eighty-two, after having lived in this county practically all his life. His wife, who before her marriage was Jane Montgomery, was born in 1827 in Decatur county, and died in 1892. They had ten children, one of whom, the youngest, Lola Frances, is now deceased. In the order of their birth the children are as follow: Robert S., of Greensburg; Margaret, the wife of J. B. Robinson, of Greensburg; John T., of Greensburg; Martha Louise, the wife of Capt. John A. Meek, of Kansas; Adam, the subject of this sketch; Jethro C., of Greensburg; Mary, the wife of A. C. Brown, of Rushville; Theresa Lavina, the widow of Robert Innis, deceased, lived in Rush county, Indiana, and Mrs. Anna Pleak, of Greensburg. John T. Meek and wife spent a considerable part of their life in Rush county.

Reared on a farm in Clinton township, the first recollection of Adam Meek dates back to the time when he was twelve years old and when he was engaged with his father in breaking up and plowing a new clearing. He was taken to the clearing by his father and shown by him how to hold the handles of the plow. In the meantime he was attending school at the old Foster subscription school about six months in every year. At the age of twenty-seven years he removed to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Clinton township, which his father had given to him and which was already improved. Additional improvements, however, were made, including the erection of a house, barn and other outbuildings. Here Adam Meek resided for fifteen years, and in 1892 removed to Greensburg, where he has since lived, and from which place he has been engaged in directing the cultivation of the farm. Mr. Meek has always raised a large amount of live stock, including about one hundred head of hogs every year.

On November 27, 1878, Adam Meek was married to Adelaide Patton,



the daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Duncan) Patton, and who was born on December 21, 1849, in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana. To this marriage has been born one child, Clifford Patton Meek, May 1, 1882. He was married, October 18, 1904, to Ethel Braden, daughter of Jeremy Braden, and she has been the mother of two children, Harold, born on July 8, 1906, and Majorie, on February 11, 1909. Clifford Patton was educated in Greensburg high school. He was in the hardware business for about ten years in Greensburg, but is now a traveling salesman.

Mrs. Adam Meek's father, Nathaniel Patton II, was born on April 9, 1810, in Adams county, Ohio, and was married, May 21, 1835, to Elizabeth W. Duncan, who was born on April 2, 1813, and who died, January 10, 1894. Nathaniel Patton II, died, November 24, 1888. He and his wife had nine children, William C., whose life history is recounted elsewhere in this volume; John S., who was born on October 23, 1838, died on September 29, 1840; Mary E., September 18, 1840, was married, September 18, 1860, to Alexander M. Stuart; he died on July 2, 1866, and Mrs. Stuart now lives in Greensburg; Eska J., April 5, 1842, married, January 26, 1864, to Robert S. Meek, who died on February 16, 1879; Melissa Ann, July 26, 1844, married, June 18, 1895, to Robert S. Meek, after the death of her sister, Mr. Meek's first wife; Martha E., August 8, 1846, married, September 1, 1868, to Chalmers McDill, who died on July 16, 1879; Mrs. McDill lives in Indianapolis; Adelaide, December 21, 1849, the wife of Adam Meek, the subject of this sketch.

Nathaniel Patton II, the father of Mrs. Adam Meek, was the son of Nathaniel Patton I, who was born on February 22, 1776, and who was married, August 3, 1797, to Polly Robinson, of Rockbridge county, Virginia. She was born on March 10, 1775, and died on January 5, 1847. He died on July 3, 1844, and both are buried at Springhill, in Decatur county. The other members of the family of Nathaniel Patton I, and Polly (Robinson) Patton, were John S., Peggy, James R., Patsy, William, Polly, Nancy, J., Eliza, Samuel W., Rebecca B. and Mary A.

The father of Nathaniel Patton I was John Patton, an emigrant from the north of Ireland. He married Martha Sharp (or Steele), the daughter of a Presbyterian minister from Glasgow, Scotland. Nathaniel Patton I, left Virginia in 1806, and emigrated to Adams county, Ohio, settling there in the early twenties. About 1814 he removed to Rush county, Indiana, not far from Springhill, and died in 1844. The founder of the Patton family in America, John Patton, is believed to have been born about 1754. He had eight brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Meek are a genial and companionable couple, who have always enjoyed life in the fullest measure. He is affiliated with the Progressive party and he and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church at Springhill. Liberal, enterprising and broad-minded, Adam Meek shows every evidence of the distinguished stock from which he is sprung. This may also be said of his good wife.

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### WILLIAM GODDARD.

Among the worthy farmers and good citizens of the last generation was William Goddard, who was born in 1820 in Kentucky and who died in April, 1897, a son of Thomas Goddard, a native of Kentucky, whose parents came from Virginia, originally.

Reared in Kentucky and educated in the pioneer schools of that day, the late William Goddard was first married in Kentucky to Emily Hazelwood, who died after his removal to Decatur county, Indiana. They had five children, of whom only one, Joseph, a carpenter in Indianapolis, is living. The deceased children are Thomas, who was a soldier in the Civil War; James Wesley, John and Mary.

Before coming to Decatur county, Indiana, the late William Goddard taught school for many years in his native state, and was considered, for a man of his generation, to be well educated and well informed. His breadth of information naturally made him a leader, not only in his native community in Kentucky, but also in Decatur county.

After the death of the first Mrs. Goddard on December 6, 1866, William Goddard married as his second wife Mary Elizabeth McKinney, who was born in 1832 in Washington county, Indiana, the daughter of John and Margaret (VanCleve) McKinney, natives of Kentucky, who were early settlers in Washington county, and who, in 1837, removed to Decatur county, Indiana, settling in Washington township, where they owned a large farm, and became prosperous and well-to-do citizens. Altogether John and Margaret (VanCleave) McKinney had a family of eight children, James Alexander, who died at the age of seventy-seven; Mrs. Sarah Porter, William Rankin and Mary Jane, all deceased; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Goddard; Martha Lovina; Mrs. Rebecca Porter, and Mrs. Emma Pulse, the last three of whom are deceased. Mrs. Goddard, who also survives her husband, is the only member of her parents' family who is still living.

By his second marriage to Mary Elizabeth McKinney, the late William Goddard was the father of five children, all of whom are living. Of these children, Samuel, who is an automobile salesman in Boston, Massachusetts, married Lillian Scott, and they have one child, Blanche; William R., who lives on the home farm, married Margaret Talbott, and they have three children, Miles, John William and Dorothy; Margaret lives at home with her mother; Mrs. Lou Emmert, the wife of Leonard Emmert, lives four miles southeast of Greensburg, and they have three children, Louis, Mildred and Mary Catherine, and Mrs. Bertha Dowden lives in Greensburg and has one child, Margaret Ellen.

Mr. and Mrs. Goddard lived on the farm of a hundred and sixty acres, located about two miles from the Greensburg corporation limits, until Mr. Goddard's death, when Mrs. Goddard removed to Greensburg. William R., the second born of the family, lives on the home farm. A Republican in politics, the late William Goddard served for many years as a justice of the peace. Although Mrs. Goddard and the family are members of the Presbyterian church, Mr. Goddard was a member of the Methodist church, and for many years was prominently identified with the Odd Fellows lodge. Mr. Goddard, whose memory is revered by his loving widow, his children and the host of friends he left behind, was a hard-working, painstaking and successful farmer, who at the time of his death left his family well provided for. He was highly respected in the community where he lived.

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#### GILBERT GORDON KINCAID.

Gilbert Gordon Kincaid is among the best known farmers of Fugit township, and he is also one of its most extensive farmers, owning three hundred and seventy-five acres of good land which is in an excellent state of cultivation. He has a splendid country home, beautifully set in elaborate and well-kept grounds; the large white barn appearing in the background is the most striking evidence of Mr. Kincaid's thrift and prosperity.

Born on November 6, 1857, on the farm where he now lives, Gilbert Gordon Kincaid is the son of John and Nancy Helen (Alexander) Kincaid, the former of whom was born in Kentucky in November, 1813, and who died in May, 1894. He was the son of John W. Kincaid, a native of Tennessee, who emigrated to Kentucky and who brought his family to Decatur county in 1831, shortly after the settlement of this county began.

He was preceded to Indiana, however, by his two sons, Joseph and Andrew, to Decatur county where he entered government land and eventually came to own a large tract of land in Fugit township. John W. Kincaid had married a Miss English.

Gilbert Gordon Kincaid is the son of his father by the third marriage. The father was first married to Martha McCracken, no children having been born to this marriage. Later he married a Miss Alexander, a sister of his third wife. By this marriage there were two daughters, Mrs. Martha Helen McCracken and Mrs. Mary A. Martin. He then married Nancy Helen Alexander, to which third union there were six children, three of whom are deceased. The names of the children in the order of their birth, are as follow: Priscilla, who married Sutherland McCoy; Rhoda M., deceased; John, who died at the age of twenty; William, of Decatur county; Gilbert Gordon of this sketch, and Cyrus, deceased.

It was the good fortune of John Kincaid, whose home was northwest of his son's place and who also owned a house north of his son's farm, that he prospered as a farmer and became the owner of several farms and extremely wealthy. A Democrat in politics, he always took an active interest in the councils of his party and was regarded as one of its leaders in Decatur county. The family were always active in the Springhill Presbyterian church.

Educated in the Clarksburg schools and the New Neighborhood school, Gilbert Gordon Kincaid farmed at home with his father for many years, residing with him and caring for him until his death. At different times his father gave him land, and he also purchased at various times tracts of land in the neighborhood where he lived, until now he owns, as heretofore stated, three hundred and seventy-five acres of land in Fugit township. Mr. Kincaid has come to be an extensive breeder of mules, and ordinarily has from forty-five to fifty head on the farm where he also raises a great number of horses and cattle, and keeps only the very best grade of live stock.

On November 9, 1898, some years after the death of his father, Gilbert Gordon Kincaid was married to Grace McWilliams, daughter of Ephraim McWilliams. The marriage ceremony was solemnized at Mrs. Kincaid's grandmother's home, near Greensburg, the grandmother being Mrs. Sarah Meek. Four children have been born to this marriage, one of whom, the eldest, Mary Helen, died at the age of ten years. Of the others, Helen Mildred, who was born on February 9, 1904, is now eleven years old; John Alexander was born on May 20, 1909; William Gordon, Jr., was born on May 18, 1914.

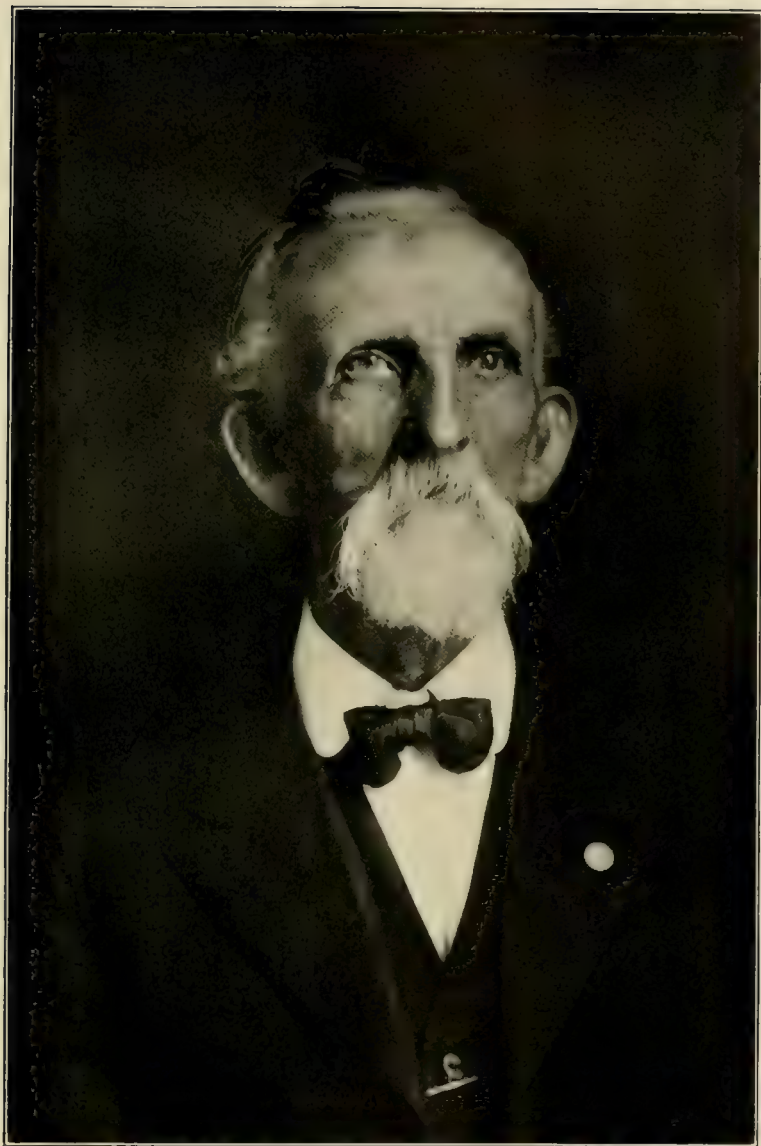


As a Democrat, Mr. Kincaid has always been interested in politics to some extent, but has never been a candidate for any office. Mr. and Mrs. Kincaid and family are members of the Springhill Presbyterian church. From any standpoint it must be admitted that he is a worthy son of one of the pioneer farmers of Decatur county, a worthy son of his noble mother, Nancy Helen (Alexander) Kincaid. As a farmer and citizen, he is living up to the worthy example set by his grandfather, John W. Kincaid, and his grandfather, John Alexander, who came from other states to found pioneer homes in the Hoosier wilderness. Any man who is industrious, economical and thrifty, good to his family and interested in public enterprises, deserves to be considered as a good citizen. Gilbert Kincaid is such a man.

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#### GLANTON G. WELSH.

In the annals of Decatur county, no name stands out more prominently than that of the late Col. Merit C. Welsh, a veteran of two wars, a lawyer of ability, a faithful officer of the county in which nearly his whole life had been spent, and a man who had been found faithful to every trust. A fluent and eloquent speaker, Colonel Welsh was a powerful factor in the civic life of this county for many years, and the memory of his exceptional services to the public long will be fondly cherished. Colonel Welsh was a cousin of Edward Eggleston, through the Lowry connection, his mother having been a Lowry, and it is undoubted that the high character of the Colonel had much influence in shaping the lofty ideals of the genial and well-loved author of "The Hoosier Schoolmaster," "The Annals of a Quiet Neighborhood," and other works which have made so strong an impression upon American letters. It is related that Edward Eggleston was most devotedly attached to Colonel Welsh, holding the latter as his ideal of a man and a hero, and this affection found reflection in Eggleston's great story, "The Hoosier Schoolmaster," in the pages of which book the colonel is fondly mentioned. In attempting a biographical sketch of the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch, Glanton G. Welsh, son of the late Colonel Welsh and for years the well-known assistant cashier of the Citizens National Bank of Greensburg, this county, the biographer is mindful of the obligation under which this community rests with relation to the memory of Colonel Welsh, and a brief summary of the salient points in the active life of that distinguished soldier and brilliant lawyer will be incorporated in the same.



COL. MERIT C. WELSH.



Glanton G. Welsh was born near the village of Milford, in Clay township, this county, on July 10, 1867, son of Col. Merit C. and Elizabeth (Hanks) Welsh, the former of whom was born in Ripley county, this state, on May 22, 1825, a son of Oliver and Lucy H. (Lowry) Welsh, and the latter of whom was born in Owen county, Kentucky, on July 19, 1831, a daughter of Sydney D. and Mary (Graves) Hanks, natives of Kentucky and pioneer settlers in this county. Sydney D. Hanks was born in Kentucky in 1793, son of Benjamin Hanks, a Virginian, who married a Dale in the latter state and emigrated to Kentucky, where he became prominent in pioneer affairs. His family is the same as that from which Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln, sprang. Sydney D. Hanks married Mary Graves, who was born in Woodford county, Kentucky, in 1796, her mother having been a Cave, and came to Decatur county in the early days of the settlement of this region, his death occurring at Milford, this county, in the year 1855, her death occurring on November 28, 1886, in Greensburg.

Oliver Welsh was born in the state of Maryland in 1794, his father a native of Ireland and his mother a native of Scotland. He married Lucy H. Lowry, who was born in Scott county, Kentucky, in 1800, the daughter of Samuel Lowry, a native of Scotland, her mother having been a native of Ireland, who came to Indiana, locating first in Switzerland county, at a place near Vevay, the home of the Eggleston family. Shortly before the birth of Merit C., the Welshes moved to Ripley county, where they remained until 1828, in which year they came to Decatur county, locating in the Milford neighborhood, where they spent the rest of their lives, the death of Oliver Welsh occurring on June 16, 1840, his widow dying on June 6, 1832.

Merit C. Welsh was born on a farm two and one-half miles east of the village of Napoleon, in Ripley county, on May 22, 1825, a son of Oliver and Lucy H. (Lowry) Welsh, and when three years of age came with his parents to this county, locating in the Milford vicinity, where he grew to manhood. His father died when he was fifteen years of age, and, having lost his mother when he was seven years old, he was left an orphan, indeed. While his opportunities for receiving an early education were limited to six months of actual schooling, Merit C. Welsh possessed an extraordinary mind; was a clear and direct thinker, far-seeing and broad-minded, and by the time he had attained his majority was a very well-informed man. He sedulously cultivated his remarkable native ability to recognize opportunities which men of lesser caliber would not have seen at all and early came to be recognized as a coming power for good in the community.

At the outbreak of the Mexican War, Merit C. Welsh volunteered for



service and was attached to the regiment led by Col. Jim Lane. He served through that war, having been present at the battle of Buena Vista and other notable engagements of the campaign, in which Lane's regiment was engaged. At the close of the war, Merit C. returned to Milford, where he engaged in the grocery business, in which he was quite successful, becoming a very influential citizen and a leading factor in the early development of the community in which he lived. After three years spent in operating a grocery store at Milford, Mr. Welsh sold the store and engaged in the live-stock business, in which, for fifteen years, he was very successfully employed. When Lincoln's first call was issued for volunteers to put down the rebellion in the Southern states, Merit C. Welsh was one of the first to tender his services, being attached to the Second Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for the first ninety days' service. Before this regiment could be reorganized for the three years' service, Mr. Welsh was made captain of a company which had been recruited in this county, most of the members of which had enlisted from the Milford neighborhood. This company was assigned to the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, being designated D company, and it was with this regiment that this distinguished soldier served for three thrilling and perilous years. At the Battle of the Wilderness, Captain Welsh was made major of the Seventh Regiment, by promotion on the field. At a later moment in this same battle, Col. Ira G. Grover, commanding the Seventh Regiment, was put out of commission by reason of a serious wound received on the field, and Major Welsh, as the ranking officer, assumed command of the regiment, being thereafter recognized as colonel of the same. On September 20, 1864, the Seventh Regiment was mustered out of the service, its three years having expired, and Colonel Welsh, in March, 1865, was appointed colonel of the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war in command of that regiment. It is a notable and singular fact that, although Colonel Welsh performed valorous service in both the Mexican and the Civil Wars, being in the very thick of many of the bloodiest engagements of those two wars, he never received a scratch on the field of battle. He was a fearless soldier and capable officer and was greatly loved and respected by the men under his command, all of whom were devotedly attached to him. For several years before his death, Colonel Welsh was the sole surviving field officer of the Seventh Regiment.

Colonel Welsh was a lawyer of force and ability and was admitted to the bar of the Decatur circuit court about the year 1875. He was a pleasing and eloquent speaker and was known as a powerful pleader before the court.

In 1884 he was elected sheriff of Decatur county, and in that year moved to Greensburg, where he spent the rest of his life. Before the organization of the Republican party, Colonel Welsh was an ardent Whig, but upon the formation of the former party, gave his undivided and unswerving allegiance thereto, and for many years was one of the leaders of the party in this county and throughout this section of the state.

On October 19, 1848, Merit C. Welsh was united in marriage to Elizabeth Hanks, of the family from which descended Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, as set out above, and to this union there were born four children, namely: Ardry, who lives at Anderson, Indiana; Glanton G., assistant cashier of the Citizens National Bank of Greensburg, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; S. Dale, of Greensburg, and Mrs. Clara Martin, of Lawton, Oklahoma. The mother of these children died on December 15, 1910, after which time Colonel Welsh made his home with his son, Glanton G. Welsh, in Greensburg, until his death, February 17, 1913.

Glanton G. Welsh was reared in Adams, receiving his elementary education in the schools of that town, supplementing the same by a course in the Greensburg high school, from which he was graduated with the class of 1889. Following his graduation, he taught school for ten years, at the end of which valuable term of public service he entered the Citizens National Bank at Greensburg and has been continuously connected with that sound old financial institution since 1899, during the past nine years of which time he has occupied the responsible position of assistant cashier.

On December 28, 1892, Glanton G. Welsh was united in marriage to Alice McConnell, daughter of James M. and Elizabeth (Hardy) McConnell, both members of old families in this county, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Mabel Elizabeth, born on March 19, 1894.

Mr. and Mrs. Welsh are members of the Baptist church and take an active part in all good works in Greensburg, being regarded as among the leaders in all movements designed to elevate the social and cultural life of the community. Mr. Welsh is a Republican, one of the local leaders in that party. In 1892 he was elected city clerk of Greensburg and served in that important capacity until 1899, giving the city most excellent service. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these two popular fraternal societies. Mr. Welsh is known as a progressive business man of sound judgment in financial and commercial matters and he is held in the highest regard in business circles in Greensburg and throughout the county. He and Mrs. Welsh take an interested part in the social affairs of the city and are very popular in their large circle of friends.

## WILLIAM G. SMILEY.

To have inspired sufficient confidence in the breast of shrewd men of affairs, who constitute directorates of banks, to insure one's election to the dignified and responsible position of president of a bank at the age of thirty-six years, is no small distinction. When, upon turning to the formal statistics covering banking affairs, one finds that there are but two other men in the United States who have been elected to a bank presidency at an earlier age, this distinction seems all the more notable. Upon the organization of the Burney State Bank, at Burney, in Clay township, this county, in the year 1913, the directors of that now well-established and substantial financial institution, in their search for a president who would inspire the confidence of all, turned, as by common consent, to William G. Smiley, whose successful management of his own extensive personal affairs in that neighborhood had excited the admiration of older men in the community, and Mr. Smiley was unanimously elevated to that position; a singularly happy choice on the part of the bank's directorate, which neither that body nor the citizens at large ever have had occasion to regret. Mr. Smiley is one of the large landowners of Decatur county and the enterprise and energy which he had displayed in the operation of his extensive farming interests gave assurance that the same wise judgment and energy would be brought to bear upon the management of the affairs of the bank, and this conclusion on the part of the directors of the Burney State Bank has been amply verified by time, the bank having been unusually successful for an institution so recently organized, there being now more than four hundred depositors patronizing the same, a list of pleased customers that is constantly growing.

William G. Smiley was born on the old Smiley homestead in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, on January 20, 1877, son of George W. and Eliza (Blackmore) Smiley, both members of old and prominent families in this county. George W. Smiley, who died in 1907, was the son of William and Mary Ann (Kenny) Smiley, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania on March 14, 1814, the son of Irish parents. Upon arriving at manhood, William Smiley moved to Butler county, Ohio, where he married Mary Ann Kenny, about the year 1836, and on January 7, 1849, came to Decatur county, locating in Clay township, on what is now known as the Smiley homestead, and by the exercise of energy and a display of enterprise that made him one of the foremost men in his community, presently became one of the most extensive landowners in the county, he being at one

time the owner of nearly one thousand acres of land. As they advanced in years and as their children arrived at manhood and womanhood, William Smiley and his wife divided the home acres among the children and moved to Greensburg, where for nearly twenty years they lived in quiet retirement, his death occurring in 1893, she surviving him by three years, both dying at the age of seventy-nine. In a biographical sketch relating to William G. Smiley's uncle, T. K. Smiley, presented elsewhere in this volume, there are additional details regarding the genealogy of this interesting family, to which the reader is respectfully referred for further information.

William G. Smiley was reared on the paternal farm, his father always having remained on the old Smiley homestead, and received his early schooling in the excellent local schools. This he supplemented by a course in the Hartsville Normal College, which he further supplemented by a comprehensive course in a business college at Hope, this state. He entered upon the life of a farmer amply equipped to give to his vocation the most thoughtful attention and from the start he brought to bear upon his extensive operations the most approved methods of modern agricultural schools. Mr. Smiley is the owner of seven hundred acres of fine land, three hundred acres of which lies east of the village of Burney and four hundred acres of which lies south of that town. He gives much attention to the raising of thoroughbred stock, horses, mules and hogs being his specialties, he paying little attention to the breeding of cattle. He annually ships about one hundred head of mules to Atlanta, Georgia, for the Southern market and usually ships from five to six hundred hogs each year. "Fred S.," bred on his farm, was the first horse bred in Decatur county to step a mile in 2:07½. "Burney Patch," also bred on Mr. Smiley's farm, has a record of 2:12¼. Mr. Smiley also is an enthusiastic corn grower, giving particular attention to the raising of Yellow Dent and Volger's White corn and is locally noted for his fine crops. Since being elected to the presidency of the Burney State Bank, Mr. Smiley has given much attention to that rapidly growing institution and is now recognized as one of the foremost bankers of the county, his sound judgment and excellent executive ability giving to his conclusions regarding questions of conservative investment much weight among his business associates.

At the age of thirty years, William G. Smiley was united in marriage to Martha Inez Ardery, daughter of William Ardery, who died on March 11, 1913, leaving one child, a son seven months of age, since which time Mr. Smiley has made his home with his widowed mother in Burney. It is not too much to say that in the thirty-eight years of his life, Mr. Smiley has



accomplished remarkable things in the way of successfully conducting the affairs under his immediate direction, and his associates very properly rank him among the leading men of affairs in Decatur county. He is a member of the Methodist church at Burney and is devoted to all good works affecting that neighborhood as well as to the best interests of the county at large and is held in the highest esteem in his large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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### LINTON W. SANDS.

Almost without exception the world is willing to do honor to those to whom honor is due. Men who have lived long and useful lives in a community, who have borne their share of the public duties and who have discharged worthily their obligations as citizens in a free country, seldom go without their reward. The Republican party of Decatur county was not slow to recognize the superior merit and large personal worth of its present county auditor, Linton W. Sands, who during a long term as deputy auditor discharged capably the duties of that important office. Appointed deputy in 1904, he remained in this responsible position for eight years, and in 1912 he was elected auditor for a term of four years.

Linton W. Sands was born in Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, and is the son of James P. and Eliza Ann (Williams) Sands, the former of whom was one of the early settlers of Decatur county, having come here from Ripley county where he was a wagon maker. He settled at St. Maurice in Fugit township, and later removed to Springhill, and the latter was a native of Ohio, who came to Indiana in pioneer times, living here with her aunt, her mother having died when she was a small child.

In 1861 James P. Sands enlisted in Wilder's Battery, and served throughout the war. Three weeks from the day, however, when he left home, he was taken prisoner at Harpers Ferry, but was soon paroled and, after a short furlough home, returned to his regiment with which he remained until the close of the war, when he was mustered out of service. He saw a great deal of hard service, but fortune seemed to smile upon him, and during the long war he was neither wounded nor in the hospital. His first duty was to carry ammunition for the cannon, but afterward he was promoted to the position of artificer. He was an intense patriot at heart, loyal to his country and loyal to his flag. At the close of the war he came home to Decatur county and resumed his trade as a wagon maker. He was

a well-known and highly respected citizen in this community. Shortly after coming back from the front, he moved his family to Fugit township, settling in Springhill, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their days. He was an ardent Republican, and he was also a member of the United Presbyterian church. Early in her life she was a school teacher and was engaged in teaching school while her husband was a soldier in the Civil War. She taught for twenty-five or thirty years altogether, and was a cultured and highly educated woman. Her father was a dairyman in Cincinnati, Ohio, during his prime, and owned the largest herd of dairy cattle in the state of Ohio. He was one of the wealthiest and most substantial citizens of Hamilton county, Ohio. Few men of his day and generation living in Hamilton county, Ohio, surpassed him in capacity for business or in business accomplishments. To James P. and Eliza Ann Sands were born one daughter and one son, Mrs. Clara C. (Sands) Henry, the wife of James Henry, is a resident of Fair Haven, Ohio, and Linton W. Sands, a resident of Greensburg, Indiana.

Educated both in the common and high schools of Springhill, Linton W. Sands, after leaving the latter, became a telegraph operator at New Point in Decatur county, and when he had mastered telegraphy, took a position at that place in the railroad office there and remained for twenty-three years.

Mr. Sands' wife before her marriage was Mrs. Anna E. (Wise), whose father was a soldier in the Civil War and was killed in the service.

After quitting service in the railroad office in 1904, Mr. Sands came to Greensburg as deputy auditor and served eight years, or until 1912, when he was himself elected county auditor. He is still holding this office. Mr. Sands has been a stanch Republican all his life, and each campaign he has been on the firing line, and his personal efforts have had much to do with the success of the Republican party in Decatur county.

Mr. and Mrs. Sands have two children, Mrs. Cora M. Clouds and Mrs. Grace M. Gray, the former of whom lives in Indianapolis, and the latter of whom lives on a farm in Decatur county.

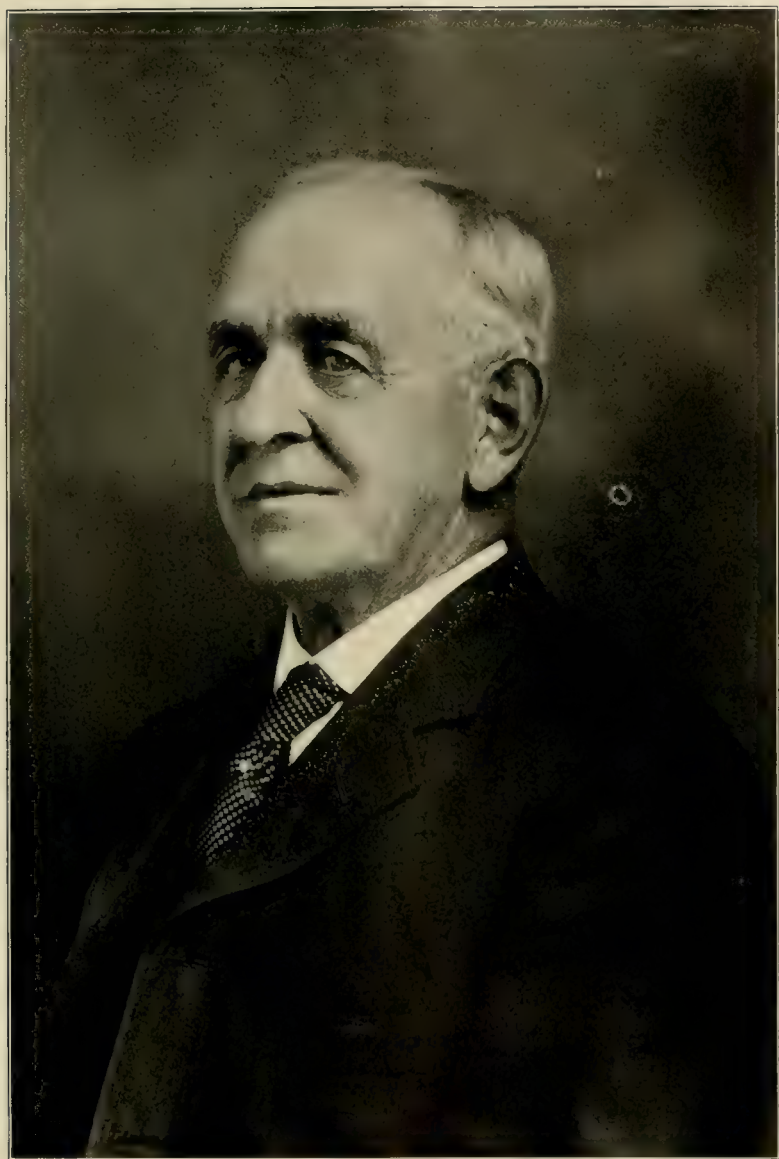
Linton W. Sands is a member of the United Presbyterian church at Springhill, while Mrs. Sands is a member of the Baptist church at Rosburg. Mr. Sands is a liberal contributor to the support of religious enterprises, as well as all other public movements. His election to the important office he now holds is a forcible testimonial to his popularity as a citizen and his standing as an honorable, upright and conscientious man. He is a very worthy citizen of this great county.

## ABRAM HENDRICKS TALBOTT.

The history of the Talbott and Hendricks families is closely intertwined with the political, social, agricultural and commercial development of Decatur county, Henry H. Talbott, the father of Abram Hendrick Talbott, having, as deputy clerk of Jefferson county, Indiana, come to Decatur county as one of the organizers. It was his wife, Eliza Hendricks, who was the daughter of Thomas Hendricks and the cousin of Governor Thomas A. Hendricks, whose father, Major John Hendricks, was a brother of Governor William Hendricks, the second governor of Indiana. Thus is the prominence of the two families, from which Abram Hendricks Talbott is descended, apparent. Himself a merchant for many years of Greensburg and Decatur county, he is one of the best known men in this section of the state. Although now retired, he was engaged in the drug business at Greensburg for a period from 1869 to 1912, during all this time being actively interested in the farming development of Decatur county, in which county he purchased his first land in the year 1885, owning at the present time a splendid farm of two hundred and nineteen acres, two miles east of Greensburg.

Abram H. Talbott was born on May 26, 1837, in the old home on the north side of the public square at Greensburg, and is the son of Henry H. and Eliza (Hendricks) Talbott, the former of whom was born on March 25, 1800, in Kentucky and who died in 1872.

The son of Richard C. and Drusilla (Grover) Talbott, who moved from Kentucky to Indiana and settled in Ripley county early in the nineteenth century, Henry H. Talbott was reared by a relative and served as deputy clerk at Madison, Jefferson county, Indiana, for some time, acting in this capacity when he helped organize Decatur county, of which he was the first county clerk, serving for a period of thirty-seven years and eight months. He was also recorder of Decatur county for a period of twenty-eight years, or until the Legislature enacted a law prohibiting one man from holding two offices. Previous to the act of the Legislature he held both the office of county clerk and county recorder at the same time. For many years engaged in business as a partner with his father-in-law, Thomas Hendricks, he became well-to-do, and especially a large landowner. A Whig and a Republican in politics, he was also a member of the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church. During his life he was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity. His wife, who before her marriage was Eliza Hendricks, was born on September 4, 1802, at Greensburg, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Thomas Hendricks, who was an uncle of Governor and Vice-president



ABRAM H. TALBOTT.





Thomas A. Hendricks. They were the sons of Major John Hendricks and grandsons of Abram Hendricks, a descendant of the Huguenots, who immigrated to New Jersey and thence to Pennsylvania before the Revolutionary War. Abram Hendricks served four terms in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, first in 1792, and the last in 1798. Abram Hendricks was not only the father of Major John Hendricks, but he also was the father of William Hendricks, the second governor of Indiana, who preceded his brother in removal from Ohio to this state. Major John Hendricks, prior to 1829, resided with his family at Zanesville, Ohio. His wife, whose maiden name was Jane Thompson, and a niece were the only members of the Thompson family who came West. Shortly after their marriage, Major John Hendricks and wife moved to Muskingum, Ohio, where they lived for some time in a rude house, in which were born two sons, Abram and Thomas A. The next year, 1830, Major John Hendricks moved with his little family to Madison, Indiana.

The first wife of Thomas Hendricks, the father of Mrs. Eliza Talbott, was a Miss Trimbull, who died young. After her death, he married a Miss Paul. Thomas Hendricks was born in 1774 and died on March 31, 1835. He came down the Ohio river by flat-boat to Madison, and from there to Greensburg, bringing with him a load of iron and casting for trade and barter. A successful merchant in the early days, he purchased and shipped live stock in great quantities, driving hogs and cattle to Madison, Cincinnati and Lawrenceburg and shipping from these points by boat. By his first marriage, Thomas Hendricks had four children: Mrs. Silas Stuart, Mrs. Jacob Stuart, Mrs. H. H. Talbott and Rachel. By the second marriage, there were two children, Eunice and Elizabeth, both deceased.

To Henry H. and Eliza (Hendricks) Talbott were born eight children: Rachel, deceased; Sarah Ann, who married W. S. Woodfill, both now deceased; Drusilla G., who is now eighty-six years old and the mother of Cortez E. Moss and six other living sons, resides with her son on the farm; Abram H., the subject of this sketch; Richard C., in 1831 and now deceased; Thomas H., January 13, 1835, died on May 26, 1836; Henry H., retired, who lives in Greensburg, and Mrs. Mary Eliza King, of Indianapolis.

Reared in Greensburg, Indiana, Abram H. Talbott attended the local schools. For many years he assisted his father in the county clerk's office, and in 1861 engaged in the hardware business with his brothers, his father having set him up in this business, which was conducted under the firm name of Talbott & Sons. During a part of this time he also operated a dry goods store in this city. Selling out both stores in 1867, he clerked for several

years in a drug store, and after saving enough money to purchase an interest in his uncle Abram Hendricks' store, he formed a partnership with his son Thomas, and three years after the partnership was formed bought out Thomas Hendricks and remained in business for thirty years. This store is now owned by Joe Moss. In 1912 he retired from business after a long and busy career, a career which had been crowned with unusual success.

In 1880 Mr. Talbott was married to Clara Armington, the daughter of Dr. William Armington, an early physician of this county, who practiced here for many years, but who was a native of New York state. He died during the early part of the Civil War, at the age of fifty-two. Mrs. Talbott was born on June 13, 1847, and died on February 15, 1914.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Talbott has never been active in the councils of any party. He recalls that the first courthouse built in Greensburg was a double log structure with a driveway in the middle. It was built by Thomas Hendricks, his grandfather, during the early part of the nineteenth century. Abram H. Talbott has been a generous man during his entire life. He has always entertained great respect for the opinions of others, and if one differed from him in any subject he has always been kind, courteous and considerate, and has never engaged in needless debate nor fruitless controversies with those who held contrary opinions. Generous to a fault, he has never sought to deprive those with whom he has come in contact from acting and thinking along their own lines and in their own way. He has been a just man and has never exacted in friendship or business more than he was willing to grant or allow. He has believed that the weakest arm is strong enough when it strikes with the sword of justice.

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#### EDWARD C. LOWE.

Among the early settlers of Decatur county, Indiana, were James and Cyrus Hamilton, who came in 1822. The Donnells, McCoys, and Hopkins came in 1823. William Custer, who lived about a mile south of the old Lowe homestead at Kingston, Indiana, is supposed to have preceded Seth and Rebecca Lowe, the founders of the Lowe family in Decatur county, and from whom is sprung Edward C. Lowe, a prominent manufacturer of Greensburg, and the grandson of Seth and Rebecca Lowe. It may be said truly that this worthy representative of the third generation in Decatur county from the standpoint of industry, intelligence and citizenship is living

up worthily to the example of his progenitors, who blazed the trail into this county, and here established the ancestral home.

Edward C. Lowe, who was born on May 6, 1866, at Kingston, is the son of Alfred and Isabelle (Quigley) Lowe, the former of whom was born on May 7, 1826, and who died on September 5, 1887, and the latter of whom was born on May 9, 1835, and who died on December 22, 1910. The latter was the daughter of Thomas and Catherine Quigley, who was left an orphan when a small child. Alfred Lowe was the son of Seth and Rebecca Lowe, the former of whom was born in Glenwood, Wilkes county, North Carolina, on December 22, 1787, and who died in Mills county, Iowa, in May, 1871, in his eighty-fourth year. In 1879 he had moved with his father's family to Fayette county, Kentucky, not far from Lexington, and after living there for some years, had moved to Montgomery county, where, in 1810, he married Rebecca Ryan, who was born in Virginia, October 22, 1790, and who died on February 5, 1865, in her seventy-fifth year. They had seven children, Polly, Matilda, Jackson, George, Eliza, Franklin and Alfred. Eliza, born in 1819, died in her second year, and Franklin, the only survivor of this family, who was born in 1816, is now living in Carson, Iowa.

Seth and Rebecca Lowe, having come to Indiana, and settled in Dearborn county, in 1819, two years later removed to Kingston, Decatur county, and there entered land. On his trip to Decatur county, Seth Lowe was accompanied by two of his children, who after he had done some deadening, went back to Dearborn county for the remainder of the family, leaving the children in the care of two men who were assisting him in the work.

Among the first pioneers of this county to plant an orchard, was Seth Lowe and people came great distances to get apples from his orchard. He was truly a temperance man and never used tobacco or intoxicating beverages, and never used profane language. A public-spirited man, he was ardently favorable to public improvements, such as pikes and railroads, and gave his land upon which to build churches and schools. He was among the first citizens of the county to introduce improved breeds of stock, importing choice animals from other states. His worthy wife was remembered long after her death. The Lowe house became known far and near for the generous hospitality accorded strangers and men weary after a long day's ride in a wagon or on horseback found shelter from storm and darkness in the Lowe home. Although they were not members of any church, they believed in the kind of Christianity as set forth and practiced



by the lowly Nazarene, and the Reverend Mr. Stogdel is said to have preached in the Lowe home.

In an unbroken forest was performed the arduous toil upon which the family fortune was builded. Alfred Lowe was a farmer upon the old homestead until his father's death. He was crippled when twenty-one years old, while assisting in the construction of the Kingston church, while working on the frame of the church, he fell and broke a leg. Later he spent one year in the West after the homestead was sold, accompanying Seth and Jackson, who were pioneers in the state of Iowa. He, however, went to Kansas, and after a time returned to Indiana, and lived in the village of Kingston until his death. Alfred and Isabelle (Quigley) Lowe had eight children, as follow: Theresa Jane Ardery, wife of David A. Ardery, of Washington township; Seth Samuel, of Greensburg; Charles, of Kansas; William Walter, deceased; Edward C., the subject of this sketch; Catherine Ella, wife of Thomas M. Hamilton, of Kingston; Marsh, of Greensburg, and Arthur J., the assistant cashier of the Greensburg National Bank.

Born and reared in Decatur county, Indiana, and educated in the Kingston schools, Edward C. Lowe has had a most interesting career. After learning the blacksmith's trade early in life, he worked at the trade for one year in Greensburg, and then worked for the National Fireproofing Company, of Jersey City, New Jersey, for one year, after which he worked six months in the Philadelphia car shops, and was engaged for four years in the restaurant business at Brooklyn, New York. Returning to Greensburg in 1907, he engaged in the shoe business for five years, and then established the Rex salt business, the product of which is now manufactured by the Styers Mercantile Company, organized in 1912, with a capital of ten thousand dollars. This company manufactures and sells stock and poultry remedies, as well as One Minute Brand insect powder. The company president is Lemuel P. Dobyms, and the secretary and manager is Edward C. Lowe, Fred Styers, who was originally a member of the firm, retired, the interest having been purchased by Mr. Lowe. The firm does a business of more than five thousand dollars annually, and has its own brick building.

On May 18, 1902, Edward C. Lowe was married to Florence Heislier, of Philadelphia, the daughter of Mrs. Mary Heislier. To this happy marriage have been born two daughters and one son, Edna, Irma and William Alfred.

Mr. Lowe is a Republican, as was his father before him. He is also a Presbyterian, which was the faith of his father, the latter having been, during practically all his life, a member of the Kingston church. Edward

C. Lowe is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Greensburg, and also of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

When Edward C. Lowe's grandfather blazed his way through Decatur county over Flat Rock with two hired men, the country was all under water, and when he reached the high knoll in Fugit township, the present site of Kingston, the Indian camp-fires could be seen in the distance. Instead of the great trees and unbroken forest, there are now green pastures and fields of grain that feed the people in the uttermost parts of the earth. The wilderness of this pioneer country has been made to blossom as the rose. If the pioneers could have had the forward vision to see what nature has hidden in the air and earth, if Seth and Rebecca Lowe could have forseen the comfort and convenience of their children and grandchildren, it would have been to them like an Oriental dream. The life career of Edward C. Lowe is a worldly realization of the aims and ideals of his pioneer grandparents in this county.

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#### CLIFFORD F. JONES.

One of the enterprising younger industries of Greensburg, Indiana, is the Jones Lumber Company, which has built up a large trade in lumber, building material of all kinds and coal. This firm was organized by Clifford S. and Clifford F. Jones on February 1, 1910, at which time it succeeded the Greensburg Lumber Company. Following the death of Clifford S. Jones, H. C. Kofoid became a partner in the enterprise. Mr. Kofoid sold out his interests on March 29, 1915, to the Jones Lumber Company, who have a well-equipped plant which covers one and one-half acres and does an excellent business in Greensburg and Decatur county.

Clifford F. Jones, the present head of the firm, who was born on September 30, 1886, in Chicago, Illinois, is the son of Clifford S. and Delia (Flageole) Jones, natives of Canada and Illinois, respectively. The former was born in 1865 and died, August 18, 1912. Until 1897 he was engaged in the lumber business at Chicago, and in that year located at Stanford, Illinois, where he was engaged in the lumber business until February 1, 1910. At that time he located in Greensburg and engaged in the lumber business, first under the firm name of C. S. Jones Lumber Company, but upon his death, the change in the firm, heretofore referred to, was made. A very successful business man and highly respected in the various communities where he was engaged in business, he was a member of the Demo-

cratic party, the Christian church, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His wife, who before her marriage was Delia Flageole, was born in Illinois in 1864, and was of French descent. Clifford F. Jones was the only child born to this union.

Educated in the public schools of Chicago and Stanford, Illinois, and especially in the Stanford high school and the Eureka College at Eureka, Illinois, Clifford F. Jones enjoyed exceptionally fine preparation for a business career. With the exception of two years, 1907-1909, during which he was located in Colorado, and there engaged in operating a lumber yard, he was with his father continuously from the time he arrived at maturity until the father's death.

Mr. Jones was married, July 10, 1910, to Litta Woodson, a native and resident of Phillips, Nebraska. To this union have been born two children, Forbes and Gail.

Clifford F. Jones is a member of the Christian church. He is a Democrat and is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Popular in Decatur county, Clifford F. Jones has made many friends, since moving to Greensburg with his father in 1910. Not only has he established a reputation as one of the enterprising young business men of the city, but he is a man of so agreeable a personality that he has naturally attracted to himself friends in large numbers.

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#### GEORGE N. REED.

Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Decatur county within the pages of this book, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of the county and whose interests are identified with its progress. Hundreds of persons have contributed to the well-being of its various communities and among them should be mentioned George N. Reed, a successful farmer of Washington township.

George N. Reed was born in St. Paul, Decatur county, Indiana, on November 9, 1873, the son of E. R. and Mary E. (Neff) Reed, the former of whom was born near North Vernon, Indiana, and who is now sixty-seven years old and living retired in Adams. His father, Reasonable E. Reed, was an early settler of Indiana and a brick-mason by trade. Reasonable E. Reed was also one of the successful contractors of pioneer times in Decatur

county and built several of the best brick houses now standing in Greensburg. He was a member of the Methodist church and a staunch Democrat throughout life. His son, E. R., the father of George N., also was a Democrat and a member of the Methodist church. Mary E. Neff was a native of Decatur county, born in old St. Omer, and died twenty-six years ago on a farm near her birthplace. Her father, William Neff, was a native of Pennsylvania, and of German extraction. Her mother was of Irish extraction and a devout Christian woman and noble character. At the time of his mother's death, George N. Reed was only fourteen years old, and one of a family of seven children. His mother was a woman of gentle disposition and a firm believer in principles of right living. Her memory has been long cherished by the family of children she left and she is honored today for the noble part she bore in the early trials of married life.

George N. Reed lived in St. Paul until seven years of age when the family moved to a farm north of St. Paul, where they remained until he was thirteen, when the family moved back to St. Paul and, after remaining two or three years, moved to a farm north of St. Omer, living there until George N. Reed was nineteen years old. At this time he purchased a livery stable at Adams in partnership with his uncle, George T. Reed, and continued in this business for about two years, when he sold out his interest to his uncle and began working for C. E. Shields, buying grain and selling implements for three or four years. After this time Mr. Reed rented a farm near Adams known as the Griff Adkins farm and cultivated this for ten years.

In 1909 Mr. Reed went to Oklahoma, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in what was known as Comanche, but what is now known as Tillman county. He owned eighty acres of this tract two and one-half years and the remainder three and a half years. As a result of his speculation in Oklahoma real estate, he made a great deal of money and upon coming to Decatur county in 1909 purchased a farm east of Greensburg, known as the Henry Duncan farm of ninety-four acres. Later he sold this farm at a profit and bought the land where he now lives, about three-quarters of a mile from Adams, situated in Washington township.

Before Mr. Reed rented the Adkins farm, he was married to Nora Wright, who was born in August, 1872, in Bartholomew county, and who is a member of the famous Wright family, the genealogy of which is given in the sketch of Caleb Stark Wright, found elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Reed were married on September 12, 1896. Mrs. Reed's father, John Wright, has been deceased for fifteen years and was seventy-five years old at the time of his death. He was born in Virginia and came to Decatur



county, Indiana, when twenty-five years old and engaged in farming, at which occupation he was very successful. He was a shrewd, capable business man and a student of public affairs and politics, a man who loved to read the Bible and who took a great interest in public movements.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed have had four children, as follow: Florence, Francis William, Orliff, who died in infancy, and Arthur. Besides rearing their own children, Mr. and Mrs. Reed have reared Mr. Reed's sister's son from the age of four to the age of fourteen. This nephew was Henry C. Lowe, who died in Oklahoma.

Mr. Reed for several years has made a specialty of raising hogs, corn and clover. His farm consists of level land. There is not a foot of waste in the entire tract.

George N. Reed is a Republican. He has never aspired to office and has never been especially prominent in political affairs. He is a man, however, who is well-respected by the people of his neighborhood.

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#### ANDREW S. WILLEY.

One of the "top-notch" farms of Decatur county is that of the late Louis Willey, pleasantly situated on the Michigan road, about two and one-half miles northwest of Greensburg, in Washington township. This farm of two hundred and thirty-five acres, all in one tract, was purchased by Louis Willey about half a century ago and is now being very successfully operated by his son, Andrew S. Willey, who remains on the old home place with his widowed mother, Mrs. Mary S. Willey.

Louis Willey, who was born on February 25, 1826, died at his home in Washington township, this county, on July 23, 1911, was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, the son of Horace and Anna (Tate) Willey, the former of whom was born in Massachusetts on February 13, 1792, emigrated to Ohio as a young man, locating in Hamilton county, where he spent the remainder of his life. Horace and Anna (Tate) Willey were married, March 7, 1822. His wife, who was Anna Tate, was born in Pennsylvania on June 16, 1792. Horace Willey, a very substantial citizen of Hamilton county, Ohio, died on March 3, 1880. Louis Willey was a Whig until the organization of the Republican party in 1856, in which year he allied himself with the latter party and remained staunchly loyal to the principles of the same the rest of his life. During the last year of the Civil War he enlisted in behalf

of the cause of the Union and served in the ranks of the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, until that regiment was mustered out of service at the close of the war.

Louis Willey was reared on the paternal farm in Hamilton county, Ohio, and when a young man came to Decatur county. For a year he remained in the city of Greensburg, at the end of which time he settled on a tract of land in Washington township, which his family still owns and occupies. That was about fifty years ago, since which time the farm has been brought to a high state of cultivation, being one of the most productive and valuable farms, according to its acreage, in the county. It is unusually well improved, the farm house and outlying buildings being of a rich and substantial character, everything about the place indicating thrift, industry and good management. The Willeys have their own gas well on the place and the fuel and light question is thus quite easily disposed of by them. Louis Willey was an excellent farmer and a successful stock raiser and became known as one of the most substantial and enterprising farmers of the county. His methods were progressive and were consequently attended by good results, the Willey farm being regarded as a model throughout that section of the community. The methods so successfully adopted by his father have been followed by Andrew S. Willey, who is now managing the place, everything about the farm being kept up in first-class condition.

On April 26, 1863, Louis Willey was united in marriage to Mary Sefton, who was born on April 19, 1840, the daughter of William and Catherine (Shuck) Sefton, prominent residents of this county, the former of whom was born in 1805 and died on October 29, 1868, and the latter of whom was born on May 15, 1806, and died on October 15, 1869. William Sefton, who for years was familiarly known in this county as "Ohio Billie" Sefton, was born in Butler county, Ohio, his father having been a native of Ireland. William Sefton married Catherine Shuck, also a native of Butler county, and came to Decatur county, settling on a farm in Clinton township, the farm now owned by Samuel Shirk, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, becoming recognized as among the most influential of the pioneer residents of that neighborhood. They were the parents of nine children, namely: Henry T., who went to Colorado some years ago and died in 1914; Eliza Ellen, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Michael, deceased; Isaac, a well-known resident of Greensburg, this county; Edward, deceased; Mary, who married Louis Willey, still living on the Willey farm; Sarah, who lives in Greensburg, and William W., retired, who lives in Kokomo, Indiana.

To Louis and Mary (Sefton) Willey were born three children, as follow: William Henry, who died in infancy; Andrew S., born on September 12, 1865, lives on the home place with his mother, and Frank W., born on June 30, 1869, who is a cement contractor, doing business in the city of Greensburg, this county, where he has achieved a pronounced success in business. He married Bert Douglas, October 15, 1903, to whom was born one daughter, Pauline, on January 21, 1905.

Mrs. Willey is a member of the Methodist church and for many years has been regarded as among the leaders in all good works in the community in which she lives, being held in the highest regard by all within the circle of her acquaintance. She and her son have a very pleasant home, which is the center of much genial hospitality, and they enjoy the highest esteem of all. As noted above, Andrew S. Willey is a progressive and enterprising farmer and is looked upon as one of the substantial citizens of the county, being held in the highest repute by all who know him. Mr. Willey's farm is called the Forest farm, owing to the great forest trees which still remain upon it.

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#### ERNEST D. POWER.

No more attractive farm can be found in all Decatur county than the tract of one hundred and ninety acres in Fugit township, owned by Ernest D. Power, an enterprising young farmer and regarded as one of the most successful in that county. Not only efficient, industrious and progressive in agricultural methods, but the same things may be said of him as a citizen, and this is not at all strange when we remember that personal habits and personal methods apply quite as much to one's rank and value as a citizen as they do to one's rank and value as a farmer, lawyer or business man. Of course, his father before him, who is now living retired, was a successful farmer, the son learning the fundamentals of correct farming from the father. His success in agriculture is due partially to the fact that he has been able to combine stock raising with crop raising and as a mule, hog and cattle raiser has no superior in this county.

Ernest D. Power, farmer and stockman of Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, was born on November 1, 1871, in Milroy, Rush county, Indiana, and is the son of George and Lurissa (Crawford) Power, natives of Rush county, and now living retired. The father was the son of the late John Power, a native of Kentucky and an early settler in Rush county.

George and Lurissa (Crawford) Power have had three children, May, who lives at home; Ray C., who is a farmer near Milroy, and Ernest D., the subject of this sketch.

Immediately after finishing his education in the schools of Milroy, Indiana, Mr. Power purchased a farm in Rush county, in 1894, consisting of two hundred and five acres, and thirteen years later, in October, 1907, removed to Fugit township, Decatur county, purchasing his present farm at that time. He has been living in Decatur county, therefore, for about eight years, and has come to be well known in Fugit township, and in fact throughout all Decatur county, being related by marriage and otherwise to some of the oldest families in Decatur county.

Mr. Power was first married, in 1895, to Mary McCracken, the daughter of H. T. McCracken, an old settler of Fugit township. By this marriage he had one child, Ruth, aged fifteen years, who is a student in the Clarksburg high school. Mrs. Power died in October, 1910, and in October, 1911, Mr. Power was married again to Lella Logan, the daughter of Nathan M. and Rebecca (Martin) Logan, the former of whom was born on September 27, 1857, in Decatur county, and the latter of whom was born on December 29, 1860, in Decatur county.

Mrs. Power, who is the eldest child of her parents, was born on May 31, 1882, and graduated from Monmouth College in 1908. She has been the mother of one daughter, Carmen Georgia, born on August 13, 1913.

Of Mrs. Power's ancestry it may be said that her father, who owns a beautiful home of ninety acres of land in Fugit township, and one hundred and sixty acres of land in Jackson county, Oklahoma, was born in a brick house erected by his father, Joseph A. Logan, in 1855. Joseph A., who was born on January 9, 1821, and who was brought to Indiana, on horseback, at the age of six months, by his father and mother, Martin and Mary (Rankin) Logan, was married in 1842 to Mary Jane Straney, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, born on May 12, 1824. She died on May 26, 1888. They had eight children, of whom all are deceased, except Nathan M., the father of Mrs. Power. The deceased children were as follow: Mrs. Nancy M. May, born on March 9, 1844, died in 1909; Mrs. Mary A. Cork, October 14, 1845, died in 1911; Mrs. Margaret F. Manlove, August 13, 1847, died on August 5, 1889; John H., November 8, 1849, is deceased; Leander, February 9, 1853, died in 1911; William R., August 20, 1855, died in 1857; Luna A., October 23, 1865, died on January 3, 1891.

A hard worker and an industrious citizen, Joseph A. Logan resided on the farm, in the house he built in 1855, the greater part of his life, the only



exceptions being short residences in Oxford and Rushville. In the latter years of his life he lived with his children. He died in 1913 at the age of ninety-four years. His father, Martin, who was born in 1800, and who died on December 18, 1870, and his mother, who before her marriage was Mary Rankin, who was born in 1799, and who is now deceased, lived on the farm, now included in the limits of Lexington, Kentucky, on the site now occupied by the college. In 1821 Martin Logan journeyed to Decatur county, Indiana, and settled on a government tract of one hundred and sixty acres at a time when wolves and panthers were plentiful. This farm is now occupied by Ezra Kirby. Martin Logan was one of the founders of the Richland United Presbyterian church. He had four children, Joseph A.; Mrs. Jane McClurkin, deceased, of Iowa; Carrie, who married Hugh Logan and who is the mother of Mrs. C. M. Beale, the wife of Dr. C. M. Beale, and Dr. John Beale, a graduate of Oxford University, and for some time a student with Doctor Johnson at Clarksburg, and now residing in Kansas. Martin Logan at one time walked from his home in Decatur county to College Corner, Ohio, in one day. It was an interesting fact that the coming of the Martins, Kincaids and Logans to Decatur county was occasioned by the reports given by Uncle Billy Anderson, who returned from the battle of Tippecanoe to his home in Kentucky through Decatur county, and here saw the fine land, and told these Kentucky families about what he saw.

Nathan M. Logan's wife, to whom he was married on May 24, 1881, and who before her marriage was Rebecca Martin, is the daughter of David and Mary (Kincaid) Martin, the former of whom was born in 1833, and who died in 1896, in Decatur county. David Martin was the son of David Martin, Sr., of Kentucky, who came to Fugit township in 1821. Mrs. Ernest D. Power, who, as heretofore stated, was the eldest child born to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan M. Logan, is one of three children. The others are Luther Martin, born in 1887, and who died on January 29, 1902; the third child, Mary, who was born on August 18, 1893, was graduated from Monmouth College in 1915, the same institution as that attended by her sister.

Both the Power family and the Logan family are members of the United Presbyterian church at Springhill. Nathan M. Logan, who has been a Republican and Prohibitionist is now identified with the Progressive party, and votes for the best man at the polls. Ernest D. Power is independent politically. No prettier nor more attractive spot can be found in Decatur county than the Fugit township farm of Ernest D. Power. Mr. Power is proud of this farm, as he has every right to be, and the people of Fugit township are also proud of it, as they also have a right to be. Not only do

they point with pride to the beauty of this farm, but the people of this township admire the rugged honesty, well-rounded efficiency and genial personality of its owner and one of their foremost citizens.

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JOHN C. POWNER.

John C. Powner is entitled to rank among the conservative and honorable farmers of Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, and owns a farm consisting of fifty-two acres, two miles southwest of Greensburg.

Born in 1855 in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, John C. Powner is a son of John H. and Jane (Wynkoop) Powner, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1824, the son of John C. Powner, Jr., who was born in 1788, probably in Pennsylvania, and who came from sturdy Pennsylvania-Dutch stock. The grandfather came to Franklin county, Indiana, in an early day, and in the early fifties came from Franklin to Decatur county, Indiana, with his son, John H. Powner. They settled in Jackson township, and engaged in the mercantile business in Sardinia for about two years. In 1853 they sold this store and rented a farm near Sardinia, but lived there only one year, after which they purchased one hundred and twenty acres north of Forest Hill, in Clay township, and here the elder Powner lived until his death, in May, 1905.

John H. Powner, the father of John C., was one of the substantial citizens of Clay township, and a man who took great interest in his church. He was very successful in his business, liberal and broad-minded in his views, and a keen student of public affairs. He was a staunch and true Democrat, and not only was a Democrat politically, but was a Democrat in his personal manners and habits, and known far and near for his generous hospitality. His wife, who before her marriage, was Jane Wynkoop, was born in Franklin county, Indiana, about 1834, and died in February, 1905. John H. Powner and wife were the parents of four children, Mrs. Mary (Black) Helde, a resident of Alabama; John C., the immediate subject of this review; Dewitt Clinton, of Greensburg, and Mrs. Jennie M. Wilson, deceased.

John C. Powner was born in 1855 in Jackson township, and lived at home with his parents until his marriage to Frances Eubanks in 1875. Mrs. Powner is a daughter of George and Catherine (Wright) Eubanks, who were natives of Virginia. George Eubanks first moved to Decatur county and afterward became a farmer in Clay county, Indiana, where he died in

1876. Mr. Eubanks died in Washington township at the home of a daughter, Nancy C. Templeton. Mr. and Mrs. Eubanks were members of the Liberty Baptist church. They were the parents of four children.

After his marriage, Mr. Powner lived on his father's farm until 1877, when he purchased fifty-two acres of land near the Liberty church, where he and his wife lived for four or five years, tilling the land at a profit, and purchasing what was known as the David Ward farm of eighty acres. After remaining on the latter farm for a period of five or six years, Mr. Powner moved to a farm north of Greensburg, renting land for a short time, afterward moving to Greensburg, where he purchased property at Forest Hill. Still later the family moved to a farm owned by Mr. Powner's father, and in 1902 purchased the land where he is now living.

John C. Powner is one of Decatur county's representative farmers and citizens. He is practically retired from farm life at the present time, but still takes an active interest in the operation of his farm, which he rents to others. He is a Democrat, but is more thoroughly a patriot than a partisan, and is liberal and broad-minded in his views of men and things. He is a good farmer, a good neighbor and a good citizen. Mrs. Powner is a member of Liberty Baptist church.

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### AARON L. LOGAN.

The name of Aaron Logan stands out conspicuously among the residents of Decatur county as that of a successful farmer and a valuable citizen. All of his undertakings have been actuated by noble motives and high resolves and are characterized by breadth of wisdom and strong individuality: His success represents only the result of utilizing his native talents. At the present time he owns a productive farm of two hundred and fourteen acres, three-quarters of a mile west of Greensburg, on Columbus pike.

Aaron Logan was born in 1841, on the old Logan homestead, about one mile from Greensburg, west, and is the son of Samuel and Susannah (Howard) Logan, the former of whom was born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1795, and who came to Decatur county with Colonel Ireland from Ireland and Colonel Hendricks, and entered land one mile from Greensburg, now known as the Logan farm. Susannah Howard was born on Paddies run in Ohio in 1805. Samuel Logan first came to Decatur county and entered land and then returned to Pennsylvania. On his way back to Indiana

from Pennsylvania he stopped in Ohio and was married, and then finished his trip with his young bride. Here they lived the remainder of their lives, he dying in 1879. They were members of the Presbyterian church and he was a life-long Democrat, a man of strong character and high-minded conviction. Accustomed to hunt bears in the region around Greensburg, Samuel Logan and Colonel Hendricks killed a bear on the spot where the Greensburg waterworks is now situated. He and his wife started in life very poor, but Samuel Logan was a money-maker. He accumulated a considerable fortune. On his way across the Alleghany mountains from Pennsylvania, having started with a wagon and one horse, he traded with various people along the way until, upon his arrival, he owned six horses.

Samuel and Susannah (Howard) Logan had nine children, James, John, Mrs. Martha Anne Hitt, Mrs. Jane Deen and Mrs. Rachel Hobbs, are deceased; the latter was the wife of Alvin I. Hobbs, of Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Hamilton, the wife of Morgan Hamilton, is also deceased. Those living are Samuel Logan, Jr., who lives at Letts in Clay township; Aaron, the subject of this sketch, and Frank, of Topeka, Kansas.

Aaron Logan began life for himself after having reached his majority, and for about three years was engaged in cultivating the old home place. After this he purchased ninety-two acres of land out of what was known as the old Hillis farm, which is now owned by William Holcher. Later, however, Mr. Logan sold that farm and purchased the land where he now lives. He has always made a good living for himself and family and has always enjoyed the best things of life. In fact, there are few people living in Washington township who enjoy life more than Aaron Logan. He himself says that he gets more enjoyment out of what he can buy with a dollar than in keeping the dollar itself and for its own sake.

Mr. Logan was married early in life to Susannah Simmons, who lived near Greensburg, and who is the daughter of Edward and Polly (Howard) Simmons, both natives of Ohio, and of Scotch-Irish descent. Mr. and Mrs. Logan have had two children, Walter Scott Logan, who died at the age of thirty-eight, was an engineer on the Big Four railroad for fifteen years, and Sherman married Cora Patten, who is deceased, and by her had one child, Clyde L., born in 1901, who lives with his father.

The Logan family have been Democrats for the most part for several generations, and Aaron Logan is no exception to the rule. He is in fact a loyal and faithful Democrat, interested in the welfare of his party. Mr. Logan is well known in Washington township, and has always enjoyed the confidence of his neighbors and fellow citizens. Mrs. Logan is a member of the Christian church.



## CHARLES I. AINSWORTH.

Decatur county has few institutions of which it is prouder than the Odd Fellows Home at Greensburg, Indiana. It happens that it was one of Greensburg's well-known citizens who had a commendable and active part in the erection of this splendid home, and who for seven years was on the managing board of the home during the period of its construction. Charles I. Ainsworth, who is a member of Decatur Lodge No. 103, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and who has passed all the chairs in this fraternity, personally superintended the erection of all but the first building, and it was his genius, coupled with his keen and abiding interest in the fraternity as a whole, that has resulted in the erection of the buildings which make up this splendid institution. In most every large community there are, in fact, men who are willing to devote their time and energy and genius to such worthy public enterprises, and these are the men who leave the mark of their individuality upon the community where they have lived and labored. Mr. Ainsworth is a man of this type.

Charles I. Ainsworth, whose paternal ancestry, three generations back, came from England, a veteran of our greatest war, a man who, as a school teacher and farmer, has had many interesting experiences in life, is a native of Kentucky. He was born in Nicholas county on August 5, 1843, the son of Tillman and Nancy (West) Ainsworth, the former of whom was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1815, came to Decatur county in 1855 and died in 1887. Upon coming to Washington township he rented land and engaged in operating a stone quarry two miles south of Greensburg, in which connection he also operated a grist-mill, and after being engaged in this business for fifteen years, in the fall of 1863 he moved to Illinois and engaged in the mercantile business at St. Elmo, where he died. He was the son of Charles Ainsworth, a native of England. His wife, Nancy West, who was also born in Kentucky, in 1817, died two years before her husband, in 1885. They had three children: Charles I., the subject of this sketch; Mary A., deceased, and Andrew M., who lives at Yuma, Arizona.

It is to be remembered that Charles I. Ainsworth was only twenty years old at the time of his removal from Decatur county with his parents to St. Elmo, Illinois. In the meantime he had received such education as the schools of Washington township, Decatur county, afforded at that time. During this period the Civil War was being fought between the Northern and Southern states, and two years after going to Illinois, in February, 1865, Mr.



CHARLES I. AINSWORTH.



Ainsworth enlisted in Company F, Seventh Illinois Cavalry, at St. Elmo, in that state. After serving three months, he was discharged, the war having come to a close. During the period of his enlistment he was on detached service and suffered from illness a considerable portion of the time. Returning from the seat of war, he located at Springfield, Illinois.

After teaching in the Illinois public schools for some time, Mr. Ainsworth worked in a store in Vandalia for one year and then engaged in farming one hundred and eighty acres for two years. He moved back to Decatur county and settled in Jackson township in the spring of 1867, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres with the money he had received from the sale of his one-hundred-and-eighty farm in Illinois. After living two years in Jackson township, he purchased a farm two miles south of Greensburg in Washington township and resided on this farm of one hundred and seventy-six acres from 1870 to 1911, a period of forty-one years. In 1911 Mr. Ainsworth moved to Greensburg and purchased splendid residence property on North Michigan avenue, where he now lives.

On September 13, 1865, after the close of the Civil War, Mr. Ainsworth was married to Rachel M. Kitchin, who was born on October 15, 1843, in Decatur county and who is the daughter of Thomas and Sarah L. (Boone) Kitchin, natives of Ohio and Kentucky, respectively. The former was a son of Joseph Kitchin, a native of Pennsylvania, who migrated to Ohio, coming thence to this county in an early day. Joseph Kitchin was a farmer and blacksmith and also a pioneer minister in the Methodist church. He was born in 1770 and died in Decatur county in 1858. His children were: Thomas, John, Bryce, Sarah and Maria. Thomas Kitchin, who was born in Ohio in 1818, immigrated to Decatur county with his brothers in 1839. He spent a part of his life in that county and a part in Boone county, dying in 1904. His wife, who before her marriage was Sarah Luffborough Boone, was a daughter of Brumfield Boone, a native of Kentucky and a son of Thomas Boone, a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The children of Thomas and Sarah L. Kitchin were Mrs. Charles I. Ainsworth, Joseph B. and Frank B. On her mother's side Mrs. Ainsworth is a relative of Daniel Boone.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. Ainsworth have had eight children: Dr. Charles Bruce, a veterinary surgeon of Greensburg; Ira M., a rural mail carrier of Greensburg; Clara Ellen, who married Watson Gilmour and lives two miles east of Greensburg on a farm; Hattie Antoinette, the wife of Dr. C.B. Weaver, of Henry county; Jessie Pearl, the wife of Jacob Sherer, who



lives two miles east of Greensburg on a farm; Frank K., who lives on the home farm; Mrs. Grace Edkins, who lives one-half mile south of Greensburg, and Wayne T., who lives on the home farm.

An independent Republican in politics, Charles I. Ainsworth has never been an office-seeker, and has served only in minor positions, having been a member of the township advisory board at one time. Mr. and Mrs. Ainsworth and family are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church at Greensburg, in which he is a trustee. Fraternally, he is, as heretofore mentioned, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in this order, largely because the Odd Fellows Home was erected at Greensburg, and because of the large part he had in its construction, he has devoted most of his interest and attention during recent years to this home. Mr. Ainsworth is also a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, Lodge No. 36, and of Pap Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic, No. 75. Mr. and Mrs. Charles I. Ainsworth are held in high regard and esteem by the people of Greensburg and Decatur county. They have reared a large family to honorable and useful lives, but, more than this, Mr. Ainsworth has never found the cares of his private business so great that he could not take a worthy interest in commendable public enterprises. His greatest public work, perhaps, is the Greensburg Odd Fellows Home, which will stand as a monument to his memory long after he has departed this life.

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#### MILLARD A. HUDSON.

Among the citizens of Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with valuable personal and real property, few have attained a higher degree of success than Millard A. Hudson, who is the owner of one hundred and forty-one acres of land, two and one-half miles from Greensburg, on the old Michigan road, and in that section of Decatur county noted for the fertility of its soil. With few opportunities except what his own efforts were capable of mastering, and with many discouragements to overcome, he has made an exceptional success in life, and also has the gratification of knowing that the community where he resides has benefited by his presence and his counsels.

Millard A. Hudson, who was born at Napoleon, Decatur county, Indiana, in 1858, is a son of Charles W. and Nancy (Becraft) Hudson, the

former of whom was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, in 1833, and who came to Decatur county in 1853, where he married, settling on a farm near Napoleon, and remained for five or six years, and then moved to Greensburg, where he engaged in the shoemaker trade until about three or four years prior to his death, when he removed to a farm which he had purchased from his savings, and where he lived with his son until his death in 1878. The grandfather of Mr. Hudson was born during the War of 1812, in Virginia, and died at the age of seventy-five years in Decatur county. Charles W. Hudson was a soldier in the Civil War, serving during the latter part of that great struggle as a member of the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was a staunch Republican in politics after the formation of that party, while before that time he was an ardent Whig and later in life a Democrat. He was a great student of philosophy. Mr. Hudson attended the Christian church, and few men in his neighborhood knew as much about the Bible as he. Nevertheless, he was liberal in his views, broad-minded and charitable.

At the beginning of his career, Millard A. Hudson was engaged in farming for five years for Zell Kirby, and afterward engaged in the business of photography in Greensburg, owning the leading gallery in the city. After conducting a successful business in this line for a number of years, his health failed, when on this account he was compelled to return to the farm. He then farmed on shares for Miss Kirby until her death, when he purchased the farm of one hundred and forty-one acres, where he is now living and where he makes a specialty of raising corn, cattle and hogs. He has on the farm a splendid vitrified tile silo, which, as much as anything, proves the progressive spirit with which he farms. When Mr. Hudson purchased the farm he paid eighty-seven dollars an acre for the land, incurring an indebtedness of ten thousand dollars, for which he was compelled to pay five and one-half per cent. interest. In less than ten years he has succeeded in entirely discharging this indebtedness. So thoroughly did Mr. Hudson enjoy the esteem and confidence of the people of his community that he was able to borrow money on his own note without security. Now that the farm is paid for, Mr. Hudson intends to build a modern home, thoroughly equipped with every modern device and for every modern process in farming.

Millard A. Hudson has never married. His sister Alice supervises the home and they are now living in happiness and comfort on the farm. Mr. Hudson is a fine type of citizen, and has made good in the face of adversity, as men who start with nothing and who, by their industry, economy and

good management, gather up fortunes, deserve far more credit than those who are favored with inheritance or other aid. Millard A. Hudson deserves the very highest credit for his accomplishments and his achievements. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Greensburg, is a strong Prohibitionist and attends the Christian church at Greensburg.

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ISAAC W. WHITE.

Isaac W. White, a retired citizen and property owner who has lived in Greensburg for more than half a century, is one of the highly respected citizens of Decatur county. A veteran of the Civil War, he performed valiant service in behalf of the American Union. While he was successful in business, he perhaps did not accumulate as much property as some other men.

Isaac W. White, who was born in Delaware county in 1842, is the son of John D. and Louisa (Earls) White, the former of whom was a native of Dearborn county, born in April, 1818, and the son of John White, a native of Virginia, whose father was born in Ireland, and who came to America some time before the American Revolution. John D. White was a prosperous farmer of Delaware county, to which he moved in about 1867, and where he lived until his death in 1895. He accumulated considerable property and was a respected citizen. He was identified with the Democratic party but, being a strong Union man, voted for Abraham Lincoln. After the war, however, he returned to his former party allegiance, and remained loyal until his death. He was a member of the Baptist church and a liberal-minded man. His wife, who before her marriage was Louisa Earls, was born in Kentucky, the daughter of a shipbuilder, who lived at Falmouth, thirty miles above Cincinnati. He died of cholera at his home in 1832. The Earls were an old and prominent family of Kentucky, probably of English origin. It is said of Grandmother White that she molded bullets while the men shot the Indians.

In May, 1862, Isaac W. White joined the Fifty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served three months. After his discharge, he joined the Fifty-fourth again and, after a year's service, joined the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, recruited at Greensburg and commanded by Colonel Gavin. He served until the end of the war and after his discharge, came home and worked in a grocery

store for one year, after which he began working at his trade as a painter and interior decorator and enjoyed an extensive patronage.

In August, 1865, Isaac W. White was united in marriage to Martha Ann Lloyd, daughter of Creath Lloyd, to which union one child was born, who died in infancy. Mrs. White died on September 8, 1866, and Mr. White married, secondly, Mary Johnson, daughter of Charles Johnson, a native of Kentucky and a highly-respected citizen of this county, to which union three children were born, namely: Laura B., wife of William Kiener, of Paducah, Kentucky; Charles, a well-known resident of Greensburg, this county, and Lulu, who died young. The mother of these children died in 1875 and on January 22, 1878, Mr. White was united in marriage to Nannie J. Lloyd, a cousin of his first wife and the daughter of Carter and Nancy (Cooper) Lloyd, natives of North Carolina, to which union eight children were born, as follow: John D., who lives at Connersville, Indiana; Jesse C., also of Connersville; Nellie, who married Albert Lacy, of Greensburg, this county; Isaac W., who is a soldier in the United States regular army, now stationed at Tientsin, China; Albert F., who lives at Greensburg; Mary, who married James Ray, of Greensburg; Thomas, deceased, and one who died in infancy.

Mr. White is a well-respected citizen of Decatur county. He is a progressive, broad-minded citizen and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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#### JAMES N. ANNIS.

Among the veterans of the Civil War and retired citizens now living in Greensburg, Indiana, is the venerable James N. Annis, who was born in Grant county, Kentucky, in 1844, the son of Charles and Permelia (Kidwell) Annis, the former of whom was a native of Virginia, born near Culpeper. He was a son of William Annis, also a native of Virginia and the Annis family were among the first settlers of that state, coming of English stock. Permelia Kidwell was a native of Kentucky and a daughter of Leonard and Ann (Stafford) Kidwell, both of whom were born and reared in North Carolina. They also were probably of English origin and were an old family in the state of North Carolina.

Charles Annis was brought by his parents from Virginia to Kentucky when he was about eight years old, where he grew to manhood and was married, living and dying in that state, in which he became a farmer and a stonemason. He was a Whig until 1856, when the Republican party was



organized, and then became identified with this party, remaining loyal to it until his death in 1879. He and his wife had thirteen children, of whom J. N., the subject of this sketch, was the eighth and the only one now living.

The venerable J. N. Annis grew to manhood in Kentucky and when the Civil War broke out, enlisted in Company G, Eighteenth Regiment, Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Col. W. A. Warner, in which company and regiment he served until the close of the war. This regiment, which saw very hard service, was attached to the Army of the Cumberland under Generals Thomas and Rosencrans. The first battle in which it participated was at Richmond, Kentucky, on August 30, 1862. They then went to Fort Donelson but arrived too late for serious service in that battle. From Fort Donelson the regiment went to Carthage, Tennessee, and thence to Murfreesboro and Hoover's Gap, Tennessee, and were then engaged in various skirmishes with Bragg's army. Through Tennessee the army marched to Georgia and engaged in the battle of Chickamauga, after which the regiment fell back to Chattanooga and there they were besieged by General Bragg's army and almost starved out. Subsequently, the battle of Mission Ridge was fought and this, indeed, was a fierce engagement. Shortly afterward, the regiment was attached to Sherman's army and marched with him from Atlanta to the sea. At the battle of Chickamauga, during a lull in the fighting, Mr. Annis and two or three of his comrades were standing in line when a rebel sharpshooter stepped from behind a tree and fired at a distance of about four hundred yards. The bullet plowed up the dirt at Mr. Annis' feet. Instantly the sharpshooter was killed. Late in the war, Mr. Annis was taken sick with the measles and confined in the hospital only eight days. On April 4, 1865, he was mustered out of service at Goldsboro, North Carolina, when he proceeded to Washington, where he was paid off and discharged on April 14, 1865, the same day on which President Lincoln was assassinated.

After the close of the Civil War, Mr. Annis returned to his Kentucky home and about a year later, on March 8, 1866, he was married to Nancy J. Powell, the daughter of James and Cynthia (Barnhill) Powell, and began life on the farm. He was engaged in farming in Kentucky until 1875, when he and his family came to Decatur county, Indiana, settling on a farm in Jackson township, where they lived for about fifteen years and then moved to a farm in Washington township, where they lived for two years. Subsequently, they lived in Clay township for five years. In 1897 they moved to Greensburg, where the family is still living.

Mr. and Mrs. Annis are the parents of two children, Mrs. Mary Ketner, of Bartholomew county, and Charles, of Lafayette.

Mr. Annis identifies himself with the "Joe Cannon" Republicans. He is a patriotic citizen and greatly interested in political affairs, has always been prominent in the councils of his party and is on the firing line in most of its campaigns. Mr. and Mrs. Annis are members of the Christian church. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Royal Arch Masons, the Union Veterans' League and other societies. He is a highly respected citizen of this city and a man who is well known throughout Decatur county. Honorable and upright in all of the relations of life, he is highly respected.

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#### DANIEL DAVIS.

Greensburg, Indiana, has the distinction of counting as one of her citizens the oldest living veteran of the Civil War in Indiana. This venerable patriot and citizen is Daniel Davis, who is now living retired in this city, and who is now ninety years old. Born in 1825 in Hamilton county, Ohio, the venerable Daniel Davis is a son of Evan and Margaret Davis, the former of whom was a native of Wales and who came to America when a young man and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. Later he came to Decatur county and settled on a farm. He was one of the first tanners in Decatur county and died in 1828.

Daniel Davis began early in life to hustle for himself and from a very early age was compelled to depend upon his own efforts and his own resources. He was bound to a man by the name of Clark in Ripley county and, when twenty-one years old, did not have a single dollar. He began life for himself by working out on a farm for sixteen dollars a month in Ripley county.

On May 25, 1850, Mr. Davis was married to Matilda Jennings, a daughter of John Jennings, a native of England, who settled in Ripley county. Mrs. Davis was born in 1826 and died in August in 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Davis had two children, Edward L., and William H., a clerk in the postoffice, both of Greensburg.

In May, 1861, the venerable Daniel Davis enlisted in the Sixteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Col. P. A. Hackleman and Major Wolf. Attached to the Army of Western Virginia, he served until 1863, when he was discharged for disabilities and came home.

Shortly after the end of the Civil War, in 1867, Mr. Davis moved to Greensburg, Indiana, and engaged in the dairy business. A Republican in politics, he cast his first vote for John C. Fremont in 1856, and for many years was on the firing line of the political campaigns of this county. He has always been a drummer and has the oldest drum in the state of Indiana. He is a member of the Baptist church, the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Masonic lodge at Greensburg. He owns land in Florida, near Jacksonville, but has never looked after the land personally. He is still a man of vigorous mental poise and well preserved for his years. For thirty years he has supplied the people of Decatur county with all kinds of plants and is well and familiarly known as "Uncle Dan."

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#### JASON B. HUGHES.

The late Jason B. Hughes, who represented the second generation of the Hughes family in America and who was a resident of Decatur county for more than a half century, was a Welshman by birth. His father, John Hughes, who was born on March 15, 1795, in Aberystwith, Cardiganshire, South Wales, sailed from Carnarvon, North Wales, in 1817, to Baltimore, from which place he came to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and assisted in building the first bridge over the Monongahela river. After a time John Hughes came on to Cincinnati and located on a farm near Miamitown, where he was married to Anna Jane Sefton in February, 1826. Six years later he came on to Decatur county, settling in Washington township, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Jason B. Hughes, who is now deceased, was a native-born citizen of this great county, having been born on the old Hughes homestead on April 2, 1844, which homestead had been established by his father, at McCoy Station, in Washington township, and here Jason B. Hughes lived from the time of his birth until his death, March 4, 1902.

John Hughes, the father of Jason B., who lived a modest, quiet life far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife, was a pioneer in this section, having died at the age of ninety-three years, August 25, 1888. He was always possessed of a keen and intelligent mind and was known as a great reader, a man who maintained his faculties and energies in a high state of efficiency up to the time of his death. His early life had been filled with interesting experiences, which he liked very much to relate during his declin-



JASON B. HUGHES.





ing years. In the meantime, he had become very prosperous, owning three hundred and twenty acres of land, most of which he had cleared with his own hands. Noted for his kindly, charitable disposition, he is remembered today with pleasant feelings by those who knew him. He was a man who always inquired after his neighbors' welfare and assisted them in every possible way to get on in the world.

Of the seven children born to John and Anna Hughes, Jason B. was the youngest. The others were William, David, Sarah, Oscar, Thomas and Franklin. Oscar left two sons at the time of his death, Thomas and Chalmers. Thomas also left two sons, Frank and John.

Jason B. Hughes received his education in Decatur county. He received a portion of the old homestead farm, comprising eighty acres, at the time of his father's death, and, before his own death, increased this farm to one hundred and seventy-two acres. He was known far and wide as the inventor of the American Corn Shuck Compressor, an invention and device which enjoyed a phenomenal success.

The late Jason B. Hughes was married on December 25, 1878, to Lou E. Stewart, who was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, on January 16, 1855, the daughter of John W. and Keziah (McCullough) Stewart. Her mother was a widow, who had one child by a former marriage to James McLaughlin, Maria, and who, by her second marriage, had one daughter, Mrs. Hughes. Her husband, John W. Stewart, was also twice married, and by his first marriage there were eleven children. He died in 1860. The widow and daughter moved to Hartsville, where Mrs. Hughes was graduated from the Hartsville College. After her graduation, she and her mother moved to Greensburg, where the latter died, February 1, 1900, at the age of eighty-one years. Mrs. Hughes and her sister are members of the Christian church. Maria McLaughlin married Robert Mitchell, who died on December 15, 1892.

All the children of the venerable John Hughes, a pioneer of Decatur county, are now deceased. Among his grandchildren are Mrs. Lon Innis, a farmer, of Milroy, Indiana; Wilbur McCoy was postmaster for many years of Guthrie, Oklahoma; Frank McCoy, an attorney at Omaha, Nebraska, and the children of Sarah McCoy.

The late Jason B. Hughes was not only a fine type of the intelligent, industrious and self-made citizen, but he was a man of strong religious instincts, and throughout his life a devout member of the Presbyterian church. He never took much part in politics, but always cast his vote for the Republican candidate and in behalf of Republican principles. At the time of his death he left, besides his family, a host of friends in Decatur county to mourn his loss.

## OLIVER C. ELDER.

Oliver C. Elder, a retired farmer of Greensburg, Indiana, is a veteran of the Civil War and one who has an exceptionally splendid military record, even though he is very modest in accepting this record, a man still sturdy and strong for his age. On the first day of the battle of the Wilderness, while serving as orderly sergeant, he took the place of the lieutenant in command. All of the commissioned officers of his company, having been killed, he retained command of the company until just before the battle of Petersburg. One of four brothers who served in the cause of the Union during the Civil War, he is the grandson on his paternal side of a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His brother, James, was captured and held as a Confederate prisoner in Andersonville, Florence, Salisbury and Charleston for a period of nine months.

Oliver C. Elder, who is one of the highly respected older citizens of this county and a native of Washington township, was born on November 27, 1843, one mile south and two miles east of Greensburg, the son of William M. and Sarah S. (Sellers) Elder, natives of Kentucky, who moved to Decatur county in 1826, shortly after it was open for settlement. Born in January, 1802, William M. Elder entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Decatur county, after coming here in 1826 and later purchased an eighty-acre tract from his brother. He had four brothers, Matthew, James, Andrew and Robert. Leaving the farm in 1863, he moved to Greensburg because four of his sons were engaged in the service of their country in the Civil War and he had no assistance with which to operate the farm. Of his ten children, three died in infancy and seven lived to maturity. Five of these seven children, Mrs. Mary C. Vawter, Mrs. America Gray, Mrs. Sarah Taylor, George and Henry are now deceased, and the living children are Oliver and James Marshall. The last four served in the Civil War. James Marshall resides at Highland Center, Iowa. The mother of these children having died in May, 1855, the father was married again to Eliza Ford and by this second marriage had two children, Mrs. Serena Hamilton, of Iowa, and Mrs. Zerura Griffey, of Indianapolis. The father died on April 8, 1875.

After living at home with his parents until the breaking out of the Civil War, when he was eighteen years old, Oliver C. Elder enlisted on August 25, 1861, in Company E, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, under Col. E. B. Dumont and Capt. Ira Grover, serving until Sep-

tember 20, 1864. He was in the principal battles of 1861-62 in western Virginia and Shenandoah Valley and the Army of the Potomac during 1863-64.

After the war, Mr. Elder returned home and engaged in farming until 1903, when he moved to Greensburg. Beginning with two tracts of land, comprising two hundred and forty acres and one hundred and fifty-four acres, Mr. Elder now owns two hundred and thirty acres in one tract and sixty acres in another.

On January 28, 1868, four years after his return home from the army, Mr. Elder was married to Sophronia Cobb, the daughter of Dyer Cobb and a granddaughter of Joshua Cobb, one of the very first pioneers in Washington township, Decatur county, Joshua Cobb having settled in Decatur county in the fall of 1820 on the old Michigan trail, married Almira Tremain, of New York state.

Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Elder, two are deceased. The three living children are, Orris Clifford, who lives on the home farm; Mrs. Edna Meek, the wife of Edmund L. Meek, of Clinton township, and Jessie A., who lives at home.

Mr. Elder is a Republican. He and his wife and family are members of the Christian church. He is a member of Pap Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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#### SAM V. LITTELL.

One of the established institutions of Greensburg, Indiana, which has become famous throughout Decatur and adjoining counties, is the lunch room and grocery conducted by Samuel V. Littell. The fame of this historic old bakery, lunch room and grocery rests partly upon a famous pie, which was invented and baked here for a long time. The lunch room comprises from eight to ten tables, and on gala days from fifteen hundred to two thousand people take their meals there. There is scarcely a man living in Greensburg or Decatur county who does not recall some interesting experience or incident connected with the Sam Littell grocery and lunch room. Thirty years ago the famous "Washington" pie was first made. This pie consisted of meat, bread, cakes, fruit, spices and New Orleans molasses, and was baked in huge pans. During the last few years, however, pie baking has been discontinued, the volume of the business having become so great



that it was necessary to either discontinue pie baking or enlarge the quarters of the store.

Sam V. Littell, well-known restaurant keeper and grocer of Greensburg, was born in Ripley county in 1859, the son of Benjamin and Jane M. (Vanzandt) Littell. At the age of two years he was brought to Greensburg, Indiana), by his parents, where he grew up and was educated in the common and high schools.

At the end of his school days in 1876, Mr. Littell began clerking in the grocery store of which he is now the owner and which was then owned by his brother, B. F. Littell. Here he served his apprenticeship, lasting about eight years, and learned the business. Later he purchased a half interest in the business with another brother, William T. Littell. This arrangement continued for four years, when he sold out and entered the partnership with another brother, James S. Littell. This partnership continued six years and was discontinued when Sam took over the entire business. It is now occupied exclusively by Sam V. Littell. He has been in business for himself for about twenty years, and has been very successful. His volume of business is equal or superior to that of any other grocery or lunch room in Decatur county. In point of years, he probably has been engaged in this business as long as any other man in Indiana. He entered the store, of which he is now the proprietor and sole owner, when sixteen years of age, and with the exception of eight months, when he was in the hospital, has never been out of this store.

In years gone by the Littell grocery and lunch room has fed as high as two thousand people in a single day. Mr. Littell likes the business, and especially the lunch room. In the past he has probably fed more people than all the hotels and lunch rooms of Greensburg combined.

In September, 1887, Sam V. Littell was married to Lida Howard, a daughter of Jesse and Mary (Ewing) Howard, the latter of whom was the daughter of Patrick Ewing, the founder of the famous Ewing family in this county, whose life and works are recounted elsewhere in this volume, and who has many descendants living in Decatur county today. Mr. and Mrs. Littell have had two children, Mary, who was born in 1888, and Howard, in 1892.

Sam V. Littell has always been identified with the Republican party and has always taken a commendable interest in politics, especially as a good citizen. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

It will be many long years before the life and career of Sam V. Littell will be forgotten by the people of Greensburg and Decatur county. Here in this city his place of business is one of the most famous and he has always enjoyed a large patronage and a profitable and successful trade because he knows the business and the wants and needs of the public. He has been honest and fair in all the relations of life, and no man living in this county is more popular than he.

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### REUBEN SMALLEY.

In the city of Greensburg, Indiana, lives a distinguished citizen and veteran of the Civil War, who today carries a medal of honor for distinguished services in several battles, which was presented to him by an act of Congress during Cleveland's administration. This valiant and brave soldier, a veteran of our greatest war, is Reuben Smalley, who was born in 1839 in Steuben county, New York, the son of Elias and Rozelphia (Hawkins) Smalley.

Reuben Smalley was but about twenty-three years of age when, on August 15, 1862, he joined Company F, Eighty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and leaving his wife and two small children, answered his country's call for volunteers. After drilling for six weeks at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, this regiment joined Grant's army at Cairo, Illinois, and here boarded a steamboat and proceeded to Memphis, Tennessee. From Memphis they went to Azoo swamp in Mississippi, where they attacked the Confederate forces, having later taken eight thousand prisoners at Arkansas Pass. Immediately after this the Fifteenth Army Corps built the Butler canal. In the following spring they took part in the Vicksburg campaign. This fortress they surrounded on May 19, 1863, and it was in this siege that Mr. Smalley first distinguished himself. The siege of Vicksburg lasted from May 19, until July 4, and on May 22, Grant called for volunteers to lead the way into Vicksburg, where Mr. Smalley was promoted for gallantry. Mr. Smalley was one of the one hundred and fifty to volunteer. At Fort Pennington, he distinguished himself for bravery and wears the badge of honor for services in that battle, a medal of which he is very proud.

After the surrender of Vicksburg, the army started to march to Jackson, Mississippi, and met General Joe Johnson's army at Black River, Mississippi, which they defeated and followed him into Jackson, where they defeated him again. Later they came back to Memphis, Tennessee, and from there

marched to Chattanooga, which march was marked by skirmishes with Forster's cavalry. At Chattanooga Mr. Smalley took part in the battle of Missionary Ridge, at which time he was acting as first sergeant. After pursuing Johnson for some time, the army went into winter quarters and in the spring Grant's army joined Sherman's. Then followed the famous campaign of Sherman, with which every one is familiar.

Reuben Smalley was with his army throughout this campaign and marched with it from Atlanta to the sea. He was once taken prisoner, but, as he says, no one could hold him in those days, and as his captor had not taken the precaution to disarm him, he relates that after marching along quietly for about three hundred yards, he decided it was time to do something and the time had come to determine whose hide was the tougher. In the struggle, his gun somehow came in contact with the rebel's head and—well, Reuben Smalley joined his command. He never missed being in any battle which it was possible to engage in. Fort McAllister was the last hard battle in which he was engaged. Finally he was present at the surrender of Johnson to Sherman, which was one of the incidents marking the close of the war.

Of Mr. Smalley's parentage, it may be said that his father was a native of France who came to America, and, after arriving in this country, settled in New York state. He died when Reuben was a lad of three years. When he was seven years old, he came to Jennings county, Indiana, with an uncle, with whom he lived until seventeen, at which time he began the business of life for himself. Two years later, at the age of nineteen, he was married to Martha Ann Johnson, the daughter of Elijah and Nancy (Bowley) Johnson, the former of whom was a native of Decatur county, Indiana, and the latter of whom was a native of Vermont. Married in Ripley county, July 23, 1859, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Smalley lived in that county until the beginning of the Civil War.

After the war, Mr. Smalley came back to Ripley county and, after two years, he and his wife, his two children having died while he was fighting for the cause of his country, immigrated to Decatur county. Mr. Smalley has been employed on railroad construction work for several years as a stationary engineer. He has been a shrewd business man and successful in life.

An enthusiastic member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Reuben Smalley is a man of remarkable vitality and striking personality. He is well known and highly respected in this community and in surrounding counties. The medal of honor, which he wears for distinguished services and bravery at the siege of Vicksburg and elsewhere, is something of which

he is extremely proud and for which he has every right to be. In 1914 he was elected constable on the Republican ticket by a majority of three hundred and fifty-two votes. Several years ago he had been elected to the same office. Mr. and Mrs. Smalley are a pleasant couple. She is seventy-three and her husband is seventy-six. With the exception of occasional heart trouble, both are still vigorous in body and mind and take a keen delight in living.

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### JOHN W. BECK.

The art of photography has reached such a state of perfection that it would seem there is little to be desired. The work, although accompanied by a certain amount of uncertainty in each instance, up to a given point, gives the operator more solid enjoyment, than most any other we know of.

John W. Beck, photographer, of Greensburg, Indiana, was born on March 30, 1865, in Jay county, Indiana, and is a son of Isaac and Millicent (Reeve) Beck. He was reared and educated in Columbiana and Mahoning counties, Ohio, including the schools at Canfield, Delaware, and Ohio Wesleyan Universities. While attending the latter place, he was offered a position in Indiana, and came west, taught school for four years, and then became interested in photography at McKeesport, where he spent three years. He then came to Indiana, and has been here ever since. After living for a time at Osgood, Knightstown, Carthage and Kokomo, he permanently settled at Greensburg, where he has built up a prosperous business and a large circle of warm friends. His political views are along the independent line, and in religion, he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He began his career as a photographer in 1885, his present place of business having been established in 1911, is known as Beck's studio. He has a fully equipped place and is prepared to do all kinds of inside and outside photography, of the highest quality.

Isaac and Millicent (Reeve) Beck, parents of our subject, were pioneers in Jay county, Ohio, settling there at a time when the ground was wet and mushy, and where the former died, in 1865. The mother then took her five children back to the old home in eastern Ohio, where she was reared. Her children were, Jonas Marion, Ellen, Anna May, Isaac Edwin and John W. They were Quakers, and wore the Quaker garb. Their ancestors were "Friends" for several generations back.

John W. Beck was married, December 25, 1891, to Dollie Smith, of Decatur county. They have had two children, Adene and Serlett.



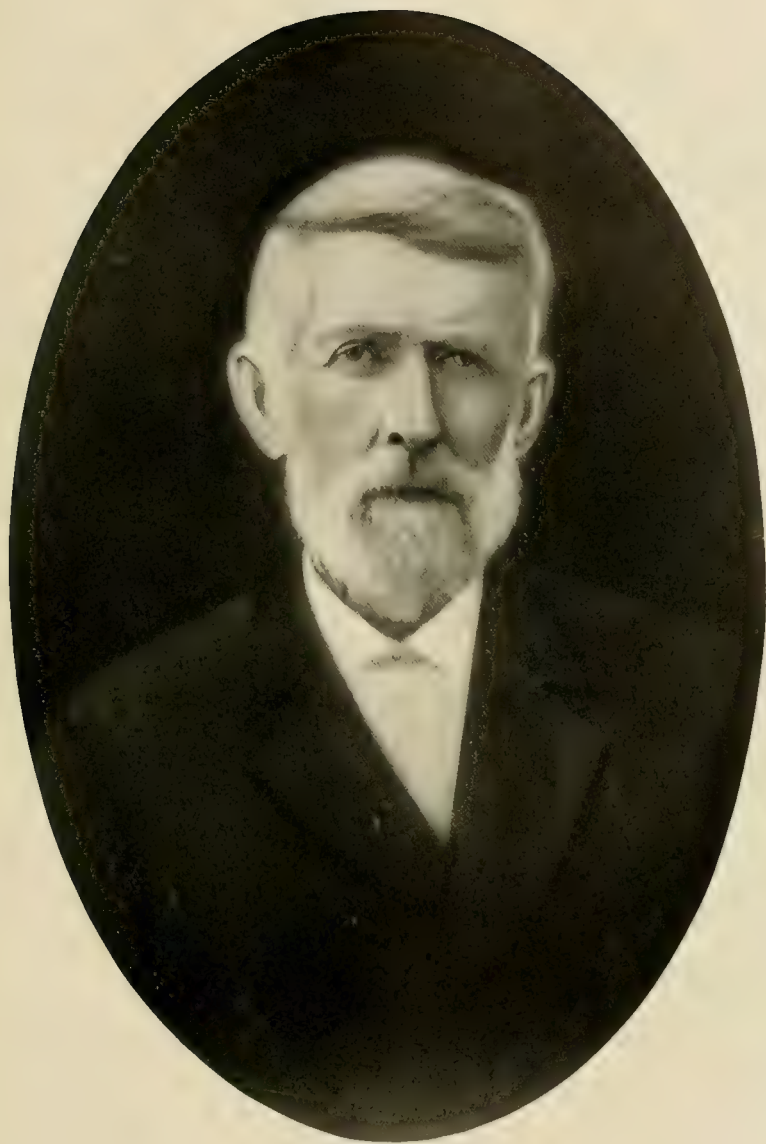
## JAMES B. ROBISON.

The late James B. Robison, of Greensburg, Indiana, not only was a successful farmer and stockman, but he was a prominent citizen of Decatur county, whose voice was respectfully heard in any council, because it was always raised in support of the right. While his most conspicuous service, perhaps, was performed as a member of the Indiana General Assembly, of which he was a member for two sessions, 1881 and 1889, yet his most important public service was performed in the community where he lived so long and where he was so well known. Broad-minded in his views, liberal in spirit, simple and kind-hearted in his charity, he was loved by the people of Decatur county, and today his memory is revered, not only by his widow and his two living children, but by the host of men and women who knew him, for his goodness of heart and for his unselfish generosity.

The late James B. Robison was enterprising as a private citizen, it is true, but he was public-spirited, which is even more important. More men of his type and spirit are needed today.

As a skillful farmer and a shrewd and far-seeing business man, especially in the purchase and sale of live stock, the late James B. Robison had no superiors and few equals in Decatur county. Born on June 12, 1834, in Fugit township, and the son of Andrew and Polly (Donnell) Robison, he passed away quietly on his golden wedding anniversary, May 19, 1913. His father, a native of Pennsylvania and a tanner by trade, came to Decatur county during the early twenties, and lived and died on his farm in Fugit township. After his death, his son, the late James B. Robison, took charge of the homestead farm when he was only nineteen years old.

James B. Robison was married, May 19, 1863, to Margaret Meek, who was born on December 25, 1844, and who is the daughter of John Meek, of the Springhill community, and the great-granddaughter of Thomas Meek, a pioneer in the state of Kentucky, whose descendants have lived to populate Decatur county with many of its most enterprising citizens, its successful farmers, bankers and mechanics. Mr. and Mrs. Robison had three children: William E., who was born in Fugit township on July 31, 1864, married Clara Taintor, December 31, 1887, in Sterling, Illinois, the daughter of George L. and Martha (Hughes) Taintor. They live on the old Robison homestead in Decatur county, and have three children, Mary, Margaret and Mildred; Stella, December 10, 1870, married Alva M. Reed, of Greensburg, January 21, 1891, and they now reside in Greensburg. They have one son,



JAMES B. ROBISON.



Rollin Reed; Clara J., November 25, 1875, was married, April 2, 1902, to George Davis, and on October 30, 1909, she died in Alberta, Canada.

One of the largest farmers and one of the most extensive stockmen of Decatur county, in 1896 the late James B. Robison removed from the farm to Greensburg, leaving his son, William E., in charge of the homestead. Later, however, he bought a farm near Greensburg, and personally superintended it until the time of his death.

The late James B. Robison was not only a member of the Indiana General Assembly for two terms, but, from 1906 to 1912, he served as a member of the Greensburg city council. In this office he used his best talents and energies for the promotion of enterprise, industry and wholesome living in this city. For more than a half century he was a well-recognized factor in all phases of life and was especially devout as a member of the Presbyterian church, having been an elder in the Kingston church from 1886 until the time of his death. To this church he not only gave his best personal services, but he also gave liberally of the means of which he was possessed, and which appeared without any apparent effort to grow from year to year. He regarded himself as a steward merely of the fortune which had come into his hands, and dispensed it with a liberality of one gifted with a patriotic heart.

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#### GEORGE W. SEFTON.

George W. Sefton, a retired farmer of Greensburg, Indiana, is one of those men who, at the first call for volunteers at the breaking out of the Civil War, enlisted in Company E, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, a reorganized regiment, and served for three years. In many hard-fought battles of the war, the only discomfiture he suffered, excepting the privations and hardships in the military service, was an attack of the measles. His brother, John, died of the measles while serving in the same regiment. Attached to the First Brigade of the First Division of the First and Fifth Army Corps, Mr. Sefton contracted rheumatism as early as January, 1862, and was confined in the hospital at Cumberland, Maryland, on account of measles. After his recovery, he brought his brother's body home and then rejoined his command at Winchester, Virginia. He was discharged at Indianapolis on September 20, 1864. During his services, he was engaged in the battles of Greenbrier, Winchester, Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg.



Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Mine Run, Wilderness, Campaign of 1864, Port Republic, Siege of Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Antietam, South Mountain, Chancellorsville and many others. This is an honorable and valiant military record of which the subject of this sketch has reason to be very proud.

George W. Sefton was born on October 10, 1841, in Clinton township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Henry and Sarah (Brown) Sefton, natives of Ohio and Fountain county, respectively. The former, who was born in 1808 and died in 1878, was the son of William Sefton, a native of Ireland, who came with his parents to Ohio, where he was reared. From Ohio he moved to Indiana and settled in Decatur county near Sandusky. Henry Sefton came with his parents and was reared in this county in the early twenties, and eventually settled in Clinton township, where he became a successful farmer. By his first wife, Sarah Brown, to whom he was married in 1848, he had six children, five of whom are now deceased. The only living child is George W., the subject of this sketch. The deceased children were: Preserve O.; William; John, who died of measles in the army; Elizabeth and Jane. By his second marriage to Sarah Stine, Henry Sefton had two children, Mrs. Rachel Wilkinson, of Sandusky, and Isaac Stine, who lives on the home farm in Clinton township. Until March, 1903, George W. Sefton was engaged in farming. He owns one hundred and sixty acres in Clinton township.

Mr. Sefton has been married three times, the first time on October 1, 1866, to Julia Lanham, who was born in 1843 and who was the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Lanham. She died in 1869, leaving two children, Monnett O., born on September 5, 1867, who lives in Rush county, and Julia E., on June 27, 1869, who married John Frank Deem, of Adams township. By his second marriage, April 25, 1871, to Elizabeth Brock, who died in 1875, there were two children, Mrs. Emma M. Brown, of Indianapolis, who was born on May 4, 1872, and Mrs. Mary E. Walker, of Newpoint, on October 7, 1873. By his third marriage to Harriett Weed, September 19, 1876, one child, Mrs. Stella Waters, of Indianapolis, was born on September 18, 1878.

Mrs. Harriett (Weed) Sefton was born on July 16, 1847, near Milroy in Rush county and is the daughter of Alvin and Jane Ann (Ross) Weed, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in 1810 and died in 1896, and the latter was born in 1814, died in 1886. Alvin Weed was the son of a well-known pioneer citizen who was drowned while traveling down

the Ohio river in a flat-boat in 1812. Alvin Weed died in Howard county at the home of his son. His wife, who before her marriage, was Jane Ann Ross, was the daughter of Alexander Ross, a native of Ireland. Alvin and Jane Ann Weed had a large family of children, as follow: James Hiram, deceased; Eliza, deceased; Robert Thomas, deceased; Mrs. Lucinda Webster, of Hope, Indiana; Oliver, who died in infancy; Charles William, of Kokomo, Indiana; Mrs. Harriet Sefton, of Greensburg; Mrs. Melissa Margaret Dilman, of Howard county; Mary Frances, deceased; Mrs. Alice Root, of Indianapolis; Alonzo and John Lincoln, deceased.

George W. Sefton cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln and since that time has always voted the Republican ticket and upheld vigorously Republican principles and Republican candidates. Fraternally, he is a member of Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs. Sefton is a member of the Christian church. George W. Sefton is one of the honored and highly respected citizens of Greensburg and Decatur county and a man who is well known and well liked by his neighbors and fellow townsmen.

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#### HENRY THOMSON.

Among the well-known citizens of Decatur county, Indiana, and among the veterans of the Civil War living in this county, is the venerable Henry Thomson, a retired farmer of Greensburg, Indiana, who was born on December 16, 1840, in Washington township on a pioneer farm, and who is the son of William Henry and Eliza Jane (Hopkins) Thomson, the former of whom was born on January 11, 1803, and who died in August, 1840, and the latter of whom was born on March, 1809, in Kentucky, and who died, December 26, 1864.

Henry Thomson had just reached his majority at the time of the breaking out of the Civil War, when he enlisted on September 5, 1861, in Company G, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, serving until May 5, 1864, when he was wounded in the first day's battle of the Wilderness. Seriously wounded in the right leg, the effects of which are felt to this day, he was not dismissed until September 6, 1864. During his service as a soldier in the Civil War his principal engagements were those at Green Briar in 1861, Winchester in 1862, where he was wounded in the right shoulder, the second battle of Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Virginia, Gettysburg, Manassas Gap and the Wilderness. In 1910 Mr. Thomson and

his good wife took an automobile trip over many of the battle scenes of the Civil War, taking along a complete camping outfit, and remaining away for several weeks. Starting on August 14, 1910, they did not return until September 11, and during this period visited nearly all of Mr. Thomson's old battlefields.

The father of Henry Thomson died before his son Henry was born, and the latter was reared in the home of his grandfather Hopkins. His father, who was born in Kentucky, was the son of James Henry Thomson, who was born on April 2, 1778, and who in turn was the son of James and Mary (Henry) Thomson, the former of whom was born in 1731, and the latter of whom was born in 1736. They had three children, as follow: William Henry, who was born in 1743; Elizabeth Davis, in 1750; James Henry, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, April 2, 1778, and who was married to Sarah Henry, in 1776.

James Henry and Sarah (Henry) Thomson had eight children, as follow: Almira, who was born in 1800, and who married the Reverend Mr. Lowry, the first pastor of the Presbyterian church at Kingston; William Henry, January 11, 1803, the father of the subject of this sketch; John Davis, April 7, 1805, and who married Susanna Howe; James Henry, October 26, 1807, and who married Nancy Ann McLeod; Alexander Brown, January 8, 1810, who first married Johanna S. Howe, September 1, 1815, and for his second wife, Elizabeth R. Carson; Samuel Harrison, August 26, 1813, was a professor at Hanover College for twenty-five years, and married Magdalena Sophronia Clifton; Preston Wallace, January 17, 1816; married Mary Ann Ashman; Mary Elizabeth, the last born, who first saw the light of day, June 2, 1818, married George F. Whitworth.

William Henry, the father of Henry, was married to Eliza Jane Hopkins, who was the daughter of John and Jane Hopkins, natives of Kentucky and early settlers in Washington township, Decatur county. John Hopkins became a judge of the appellate court, and was a man of ability and great power. It was Judge John Hopkins who practically reared Henry Thomson, the subject of this sketch. Judge Hopkins died in 1852, and his wife in 1854, two years later. Mrs. Eliza Jane (Hopkins) Thomson died in 1864, on December 26.

After the Civil War, Henry Thomson entered Hanover College, where he was a student for some time, but he later returned to the farm in Washington township, and was actively engaged as a farmer until 1903, when, after a trip to the West, including the National Park, the Pacific coast,

Oregon, the Pacific coast cities, New Mexico, Arizona, and the Grand Canon of Colorado, he and his wife settled at their present home in Greensburg, Indiana. The one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm, with which he started life, in the meantime has been increased to one hundred and sixty acres. Mr. Thomson still owns this farm, which is well improved.

On December 15, 1881, Mr. Thomson was married to Laura Alice McCracken, who was born on January 31, 1852, and who is the daughter of Adam and Mary Jane (Rankin) McCracken, natives of Kentucky. Adam was the son of James and Sallie (Meek) McCracken, and was born on May 20, 1824, and died in 1901. His wife was the daughter of Adam and Hester (Logan) Rankin, natives of Kentucky, who settled at Springhill in Decatur county in the early twenties. Here they homesteaded a farm and it was here that the mother of Mrs. Thomson was reared. Adam McCracken and Mary Jane Rankin were married in 1851. The latter was born in 1827. Mrs. Thomson is one of three children born to her parents. The others were James Logan, who was born on January 9, 1858, and who lives at Watseka, Illinois, and Whilma, November 7, 1864, died, July 24, 1889.

An ardent believer in temperance and in the suppression of the liquor traffic, Henry Thomson has been an active and influential member of the Prohibition party. Mr. and Mrs. Thomson are members of the Presbyterian church. Henry Thomson is a member of Pap Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Greensburg, Indiana.

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### JOHN WESLEY DEEM

John Wesley Deem, a retired farmer and merchant of Greensburg, Indiana, whose active life dates back to the pioneer history of the Hoosier state, is a native of Preble county, Ohio, his birth having occurred on November 22, 1831. He is a son of Thomas and Sarah (Sayler) Deem, natives of Kentucky, whose family came originally from Virginia, and who removed from Kentucky to Ohio in an early day, and from that state to Indiana, settling in Decatur county in 1834, where they purchased land and Thomas Deem became a large landowner, possessing at one time five hundred acres. He was born on May 30, 1796, and died on September 24, 1853. His wife was born October 20, 1809, and died March 3, 1895. The Deem homestead, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, was pur-



chased from Ella and Elizabeth Warriner, December 3, 1834, for nine hundred dollars. The deed was recorded on September 24, 1835.

Thomas and Sarah (Saylor) Deem were the parents of ten children, whose names in the order of their birth are as follow: Mrs. Mary Ann Heaton, who was born on December 10, 1826, died on March 6, 1915; Mrs. Eliza A. Stewart, April 11, 1828, died in December, 1911; Mrs. Catharine Dailey, the widow of E. G. Dailey, of Greensburg; Mrs. Elizabeth Hoodlow, of Topeka, Kansas, in 1829; Mrs. Lenora Corey, November 22, 1830, lives on the old homestead; John Wesley, the immediate subject of this review; Lemuel, in 1836, is now deceased; Oliver, in 1840, lives in Greensburg; William Henry, in 1844, died in the service of his country during the Civil War, and Thomas Harvey, in 1847, died in 1864, and was also a soldier in the Civil War.

After his father had purchased the homestead farm, John Wesley Deem assisted in clearing the land, and did his share toward the improvement and cultivation of the home farm. The family lived at this time in a hewed log house, and experienced all the privations and hardships, as well as the joys of true pioneer life in southern Indiana. When he was twenty-four years of age, in 1855, John W. Deem removed to Shelby county, Indiana, where he lived for two years. During this period he and his wife lived in a round log cabin which was notched, daubed and chinked with mud. It consisted of one room, eighteen by fifteen feet, with one window and a door on the opposite side from the window. The chimney was built of mud and sticks with mud jambs and a clapboard roof. It was a typical pioneer's cabin, the door having a wooden latch with a string on the outside, which could be locked by pulling the string on the inside. Mr. Deem sawed lumber at night during the winter season, by the use of the water-mill, four miles away, and in this way secured lumber enough to build a new house. His father had built what is believed to have been the first brick house in Decatur county. After two years' residence in Shelby county, Mr. Deem returned with his family to Decatur county, and here he engaged in the mercantile and grain business at Adams, where he remained for six years. He operated a saw-mill for a number of years and then moved to his farm in Adams township. At one time he was the owner of four hundred acres of land, but has sold the greater portion of this land and now has two hundred and fifty acres. In 1894 Mr. Deem retired from active farm life and moved to Greensburg, where he engaged in the hardware and implement business, in which he continued for a period of eighteen years. On account of the

poor health of Mrs. Deem, he retired from business at this time and cared for his wife until her death.

John Wesley Deem was married on September 20, 1855, to Margaret Jane Logan, who was born on November 9, 1832, in Decatur county, the daughter of Samuel Logan and wife. Mrs. Deem died on September 28, 1903. John W. Deem and wife were the parents of six children, Sarah Susanna, who was born on August 11, 1856, was married to Arthur Doggett, March 4, 1875, and died ten years later on October 17, 1885, leaving two children, Mrs. Sarah Alberta Brockelmeier and Otis; Samuel Logan, February 15, 1858, married Flora King; Kate, March 25, 1860, died on December 20, 1865; William Henry Ellsworth, August 13, 1862, died August 22, 1863; Mary, October 13, 1864, married J. C. Bird, December 21, 1881, and on May 29, 1895, her death occurred, leaving two children, Mrs. Ethel Koester, who is a resident of Cincinnati, and has two children, Robert and one unnamed, and Harry Bird, a resident of Greensburg; John Franklin, who was born on March 29, 1871, lives on the home place. He married Julia E. Sefton, December 24, 1890.

John Wesley Deem, during his lifetime, has been an ardent believer in Republican principles and has always voted the Republican ticket. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but on account of defect in hearing, cannot enjoy attending. He is a member of the Masonic lodge, in which he is deeply interested.

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#### IRA CLARK.

Of pioneer descent, the gentleman whose name is here noted, maintains in his own life and manner of living all the sterling traditions of a stalwart and vigorous race of God-fearing, home-loving, temperate and industrious forbears, men and women who wrought well during the early days of this section of the state and who, upon passing, bequeathed to their posterity the priceless legacy of a good name. Born and reared in this county, Mr. Clark has created at Greensburg, the county seat, a business which aids very materially in carrying the name of that pleasant city to distant parts of this country. The beautiful flowers which are cultivated in the famous greenhouses of Ira Clark & Company at Greensburg are shipped to cities at far distant points, being one of the most delightful contributions this county makes to the commerce of the land. Roses and carnations are the special

products of this well-known greenhouse and a wide territory is supplied from the Clark houses, shipments of the standard and best varieties being made to points as far west as Denver, as far north as Toronto and as far south as Atlanta and New Mexico. In addition to these select varieties, Mr. Clark also cultivates a general line of florist's goods and has a place which is one of the show places of the town, carrying on a business in which all the people in and about Greensburg take a very proper pride. Ira Clark & Company's greenhouses cover twelve thousand square feet of surface, comprising eight large houses, hot water and steam heated, and are otherwise fully equipped according to all modern requirements.

Ira Clark was born on a farm near the town of Clarksburg, this county, on June 5, 1870, the son of Hezekiah E. and Catherine J. (Miller) Clark, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania in 1827 and died at his home in this county in 1896, and the latter of whom was born in Franklin county, this state, on June 1, 1840, and is now residing in the city of Greensburg.

Hezekiah E. Clark was the son of William Clark, who founded the town of Clarksville, Pennsylvania, in the year 1817, and who, with his brother, gave a church to the town. Just ninety-eight years later, on February 14, 1915, this historic old church was profusely decorated with flowers shipped from Greensburg by Ira and Nellie M. Clark, grandchildren of William Clark. William Clark and three brothers came to America from Scotland in the eighteenth century, one of the brothers locating in Pennsylvania, another in New Jersey and the other in South Carolina. William Clark later moved to Ohio, in which state his last days were passed. His son, Hezekiah E., came to Decatur county, Indiana, in 1854, settling in the village of Clarksburg, where he married Catherine J. Miller, who was born on June 1, 1840, the daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Lewis) Miller, and who now is residing in Greensburg. Jacob Miller, a native of Virginia, was the second person to settle in Fugit township, this county, and was one of the men who organized the township. He came to this county about the year 1821, following a "blazed trail," and quickly established himself here, being one of the most potent forces in the creation of a social order in the then wilderness. His wife, Rebecca Lewis, was a cousin of "Davy" Crockett, she and the immortal hero of the Alamo having been reared children together. The Lewises and the Crocketts left Virginia together, but parted at Cinch mountain, the Crocketts going on into Tennessee and the Lewises coming to Indiana. Jacob Miller, who was born in the year 1800 and died in 1872, first settled on Salt creek, in Franklin county, this state, where he married Rebecca Lewis, later coming to this county and settling in Fugit township where he

and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Hezekiah Clark moved from Fugit township to Clinton township, this county, and died on the farm in that township, one of the most highly respected men in the county. Both the Clarks and the Millers were of a hardy, self-respecting, upright race, staunch Methodists and firm in the expression of the courage of their convictions. The Millers entertained John Wesley when that great apostle of Methodism made his historic tour into Virginia. These two families were ardent temperance advocates and practiced what they preached, even in a day when the drinking of strong drinks was a common practice. In the old "log rolling" days, when it came time for Jacob Miller to invite his pioneer neighbors to such a fete, he declined to furnish whisky to the participants in the arduous labors of the day, notwithstanding the time-honored custom of the period; being so strictly temperate in his own habits that he would not consent to putting the intoxicating glass to his neighbors' lips.

To Hezekiah E. and Catherine J. (Miller) Clark were born seven children, five sons and two daughters, namely: Jesse M., who died on April 9, 1898; Tillman, who lives in Howard county, Indiana; Mrs. Clara Draper, who lives on a farm east of Greensburg, in this county; Emmet, a well-known farmer of Adams township, this county; Nellie M., who is associated with her brother, Ira, in the florist's business in Greensburg; Ira, the immediate subject of this sketch, and A. Burl, who lives in the state of Oklahoma.

Ira Clark received his early education in the schools of Sandusky, this county, and was graduated from the school at that place. To this course of schooling he added a course in the Central Normal School, at Danville, Indiana, from which he also was graduated, after which, for ten years, he taught in the schools of Sandusky and St. Paul, this county, being the assistant principal in the latter school. He then, in the year 1901, engaged in the florist's business in Greensburg, he and his partner conducting the business for a year under the firm style of Hedges & Clark, the concern in 1902 becoming known as Clark & Company. The beginning of this business was on a comparatively small scale, but Mr. Clark later bought out the greenhouses of Henry Bentlage, combining the two greenhouses under the present efficient management, and has been quite successful.

In 1897 Ira Clark was united in marriage to Carrie Bell-Vandament, a well-known and popular teacher in the Sandusky schools, the daughter of J. C. Bell, a prominent resident of that village. To this union two children have been born, Wayne, who now is sixteen years of age, and Lewis, now twelve years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark are members of the First Methodist Episcopal



church and are active workers in the congregation to which they are attached, Mr. Clark being one of the church stewards. Following the example of his pioneer forbears, Mr. Clark is a strong temperance advocate and is one of the leaders in all the good works of the city in which he lives. In his political views he is quite independent, believing that it is the duty of a good citizen to support the ablest and most conscientious men for positions of public trust and responsibility, regardless of the party with which candidates for office are affiliated. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Odd Fellows and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these two popular fraternal orders.

Mr. Clark is an energetic business man and public-spirited citizen who has the entire confidence of the community in which he lives and he and Mrs. Clark are held in the highest regard by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

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#### CORNELIUS MESSLER.

Cornelius Messler, a well-known retired citizen of Greensburg, Indiana, belongs to a family which served its country most valiantly during the trying days of the Civil War. Four Messler brothers, of whom Cornelius was the second, hazarded their lives on the battlefields of the Civil War for the preservation of the American Union. It is doubtful whether there are any families in Decatur county, which can show a more patriotic record than this. A member of Company H, Third Indiana Cavalry, and in the service of his country nearly four years, a participant in at least twenty-five severe battles, including the battles of Corinth and Pittsburg Landing, Cornelius Messler was taken prisoner at Soloman's Grove, North Carolina, on March 10, and held until the latter part of 1865, a period of sixty days in all. Two brothers, James and John, were members of the One Hundredth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and one brother, Henry, was a soldier in the Eleventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. This country is enthusiastically and reverently proud of the splendid service which was performed by the heroes of 1861-65. It is not only proud of the service they performed during this troubled period, but it is likewise proud to number among its citizens in these days of peace the battle-scarred veterans of that war, among whom is Cornelius Messler.

A resident of Greensburg, Indiana, Cornelius Messler lives in a comfortable home, and was born on September 23, 1832, in Hamilton county,

Ohio, the son of John S. and Sabina Messler, the former of whom was a native of New Jersey, born on August 2, 1797, and who died on September 30, 1840, the latter of whom was born on April 13, 1809, and died on June 11, 1849. John S. Messler, who came west from Philadelphia, died in Union county, Indiana, and his wife passed away in Salt Creek township, Decatur county. They had six children, William F., James, Cornelius, John R., Henry, and Mary A.

When twelve years old, Cornelius Messler was employed to drive a team along the old White Water canal, from Cincinnati to Cleavestown, and thence by the way of the Wabash & Erie canal to Toledo, a distance of three hundred and eighty miles. In 1842 the family came to Decatur county, where Cornelius lived for one year, and then returned to the state of Ohio, and was engaged as a stage-driver in that state for a period of sixteen years. In the meantime he worked at various occupations, coming to Decatur county, Indiana, to live permanently in 1897.

Mr. Messler has been twice married, the first time to Sarah A. Hannan, who was born on November 5, 1828, and who died on February 2, 1883. She was buried in Taswell county, Virginia. She was the mother of five children, three of whom, Mary A., John and Anna, the youngest, are now deceased. The two eldest, William, who was born, October 3, 1855, and James H., on June 8, 1859, live near Frankfort, and Hartford City, respectively.

Many years after the death of Mrs. Sarah A. (Hannan) Messler, Mr. Messler was married again, April 21, 1898, the second time to Sarah Elizabeth Bell, who was born on the Bell homestead on April 11, 1840, and who is the daughter of Henson S. and Ann (Marlin) Bell, natives of Woodford county, Kentucky, and Monmouth county, New Jersey, respectively, the former of whom was the son of Daniel and Nancy Bell. Henson S. Bell, who died on November 30, 1890, at the age of eighty-one years, was a mere boy when he came from Kentucky to Indiana. For some time he and his wife lived in Laurel, but they later moved to a farm, just before the death of his wife in 1841. In 1850 he removed to Oregon, driving overland, but returned in 1873, and lived on his farm until his death. In the meantime he had traveled over Oregon, Washington and California. He had two children, Nancy Jane, deceased, who was born in 1837, and who died in 1856, and Mrs. Cornelius Messler. Daniel Bell, the father of Henson S. Bell, died on April 28, 1875, at the age of ninety-five years. His wife, Nancy Bell, died on February 8, 1883, at the age of ninety-five. They had come to Decatur county in 1822, and homesteaded on government land. On their

trip to Decatur county they were accompanied by their son, Henson, the father of Mrs. Messler. Before returning home they planted a patch of corn, and upon coming back to Decatur county found out that the squirrels had eaten up the corn. The ten children born to Daniel and Nancy Bell, John, Louisa, Henson, George, Thomas, Mary, Nancy, Tarlton, James and Julia, are all deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Messler have a farm of eighty-one acres in Fugit township, the old Bell homestead, although they have for several years resided in Greensburg, where, in October, 1902, they bought a home. They are known as among the most delightful people living in the city of Greensburg. Mr. Messler is a man who has enjoyed a variety of experiences, and who is rich in anecdote of former times, a charming conversationalist, a genial, broad-minded citizen, who is revered by his fellow townsmen and honored by all with whom he has ever come in contact. Mrs. Messler is a woman of most gracious personality, refined and cultured, interested in all worthy public movements, and who for many years was a leader among her sex in this county. Eminently worthy as both Mr. and Mrs. Messler are, they well deserve the respect and esteem of the people of Greensburg and Decatur county. Mrs. Messler is now and has been a member of Mt. Carmel Methodist Episcopal church since 1855.

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#### HARRY H. MOUNT.

Harry H. Mount, of Greensburg, Indiana, formerly a school teacher and banker, now a farmer, who owns two hundred and forty acres of land near the Shelby county line, is one of the best-known citizens of Decatur county. For several years he has been an extensive breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle, and for the past two years has raised only registered cattle. His herd consists now of forty-four head, eight of which are registered stock.

Mr. Mount was born on December 28, 1875, on a farm in Noble township, Shelby county, Indiana, two miles west of Clifty, or Milford, the son of Thomas J. and Nancy (Thornburg) Mount, natives of Noble township, Shelby county, Indiana, the former of whom was born on August 24, 1846, and who died on October 10, 1910, and the latter of whom was born on July 6, 1844, and who died on September 2, 1894, many years before the death of her husband. The late Thomas J. Mount was the son of Matthias

and Margaret (Marsh) Mount, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in 1823, and who died in 1893. Coming to Shelby county, Indiana, with his father when a mere lad, he eventually succeeded to the land his father entered from the government, and it is this land which is now held by the Mount family. His wife, who before her marriage was Margaret Marsh, was born in 1825, and died, three years before the death of her husband, in 1890. They had ten children, six of whom lived to maturity, Thomas J., was the father of Harry H.; Mrs. Martha Hanks died on February 23, 1913; Amos died in March, 1894; Hannah is deceased; Sarah died in 1881; and Mrs. Emma Blackmore lives on the old home place.

Thomas J. Mount, a successful farmer and stockman, removed to Greensburg in November, 1884, from which place he looked after his farming interests, living there until 1908, when he returned to the farm, and there died. In 1896 he purchased a farm from Frank Butler on the Shelby and Decatur county line, a part of which was in Clay township, Decatur county, and a part of which was in Shelby county. He owned four hundred and fifty acres in all, and at one time was an extensive breeder of Poland China hogs. He exercised his right of franchise as a Republican. He and his family were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The late Thomas J. and Nancy (Thornburg) Mount had only two children, Harry H., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Elmer E. Wooden, who lives in Greensburg. Mrs. Nancy (Thornburg) Mount was a native of Noble township, Shelby county, Indiana, and the daughter of Thomas and Maria (Berry) Thornburg, who were in turn natives of Pennsylvania, and Ohio, respectively. They migrated to Shelby county, Indiana, in the late thirties.

Educated in the country schools of Decatur county and in the Greensburg high school, Harry H. Mount attended the State University at Bloomington, Indiana, pursuing his studies in the scientific course. After teaching school for two years in Clay township at the Hiner and Brown schools, he resigned in 1899 to take a position as bookkeeper in the Third National Bank, and from December 1, 1899, to May 1, 1912, a period of thirteen years, he was bookkeeper and teller at this institution. Since 1912 Mr. Mount has been devoting all of his attention in directing the work on his two-hundred-and-forty-acre farm on the Shelby county line.

On June 7, 1905, Harry H. Mount was married to Daisy E. Gartin, of Hartford City, Indiana, who is the daughter of Griffith and Laura E. (Templeton) Gartin, formerly residents of Decatur county, Indiana. The father now lives in Muncie. Mrs. Mount was born on September 27, 1876, in Decatur county. Her father, who was born in this county on October



26, 1854, is the son of Griffith Gartin, Sr., a native of Virginia, and an early settler in Decatur county. Her mother, who before her marriage was Laura E. Templeton, was born on February 13, 1853, and died on June 25, 1882, in Franklin county. She was the daughter of John Templeton, who came to Decatur county in an early day. Mrs. Mount is the only child born to her father's first marriage.

A Republican in party politics, Harry H. Mount is a member of the Greensburg city council, and is giving efficient service to his fellow townsmen as a public official and an enterprising and public-spirited citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Mount are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 148, at Greensburg, and for seven years has been keeper of records and seal. Mr. and Mrs. Mount live in a modern home, and both are well educated and highly refined. Mrs. Mount is treasurer of the Department Club at Greensburg, and both take an active part in the social life of the city.

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#### SAMUEL H. STEWART.

The Stewart family in Decatur county was founded by Adam L. Stewart, a native of South Carolina, born in 1811, and who died in 1896. From South Carolina, he immigrated with his father, James Stewart, to Ohio, and it was here that he was reared. From Ohio he came to Rush county about 1832, and one year later moved to Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, where he settled. Here he married Isabella Hood, the daughter of Samuel and Isabella (Lee) Hood, whose grandfather, John Carson, of Virginia, was a soldier in the American Revolution. Isabella Hood was born in Kentucky in 1816 and died in 1888. She was brought to Decatur county by her father, Samuel Hood, who came in 1827. In 1852 Adam L. and Isabella (Hood) Stewart moved to a farm in Clinton township, consisting of eighty acres and here they lived until their deaths.

Samuel H. Stewart, who is one of eight children born to Adam L. and Isabella Stewart, and who is a prominent stock dealer and farmer of Greensburg, now living retired, is the subject of this sketch. Samuel H. Stewart was born on January 26, 1837, in Fugit township. He was the eldest child born to his parents, the others being James, who died at the age of thirteen; Mrs. Sophia Weed, deceased; Eliza, who died in 1868; Mrs. Nancy Amanda Foley, a widow who lives in Greensburg; John, of Kansas City; Margaret, who died in April, 1914, and Mary, who died at the age of two years.

Samuel H. Stewart, who responded to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, enlisted in Company F, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in 1861 and served three months, being mustered out in July, 1861. He was in the first battle of the Civil War at Philippi, Virginia, and also served throughout the Cheat river campaign.

On November 9, 1865, Mr. Stewart was married to Hannah Donnell, who was born on August 9, 1837, in Fugit township, and who is the daughter of Samuel Addison and Mary (Lowe) Donnell, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in 1808 and died in 1870 and the latter born in 1810 and died in 1858. Samuel Donnell, whose wife was Hannah Quiett of Kentucky, settled in Decatur county in 1823. He was the son of James Donnell, a native of Pennsylvania and a pioneer settler in Kentucky. James Donnell married Catherine Gibson, a native of Virginia. Six children were born to Samuel A. and Mary (Lowe) Donnell, as follow: Mrs. Hester Jane Rankin, of Greensburg; Luther, who died in Fugit township; Hannah; Seth, deceased; Thomas R., of Greensburg, and Mrs. Rebecca Angelina Miller, of Franklin, Indiana. The Donnell family is a very large one in this section of the country. Mrs. Mary (Lowe) Donnell, the mother of these children, was a daughter of Seth and Rebecca (Ryan) Lowe, the latter of Virginia. He was the first settler in the Kingston neighborhood, the Hamiltons and McCoys coming in 1823, he preceding them by two years. Although a member of the Baptist church, he attended the Presbyterian church and was a man of charitable and benevolent disposition. He reared several children beside his own family, and was known during his day and generation as a noble character.

After Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were married, they settled in Clinton township and in 1871 moved to Greensburg, where he engaged permanently in the live stock business. This business, however, he had really begun in 1855. During his life, Mr. Stewart has bought and sold thousands of cattle and hogs. In the early days he shipped from three to fifteen carloads of cattle and the same number of carloads of hogs, at one time. He shipped to Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, principally. Although Mr. Stewart has owned as high as two hundred and fifty acres of land, he now owns only sixty acres in Clinton township. His farm of two hundred acres which he owns, three miles south of Greensburg, he is now selling off from time to time. After selling the farm, Mr. Stewart leased it for a period of twenty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel H. Stewart have been the parents of four children, Mary, who is the wife of Charles J. Erdmann, of Greensburg; Edna.

who is employed by the State Life Insurance Company, at Indianapolis; Anna, who is employed on the *Greensburg Review* and who was formerly a school teacher, and Kate, who lives at home.

An independent Republican in politics, Mr. Stewart is a great admirer of President Wilson. Religiously, he is a member of the Presbyterian church as is Mrs. Stewart also. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic.

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### REV. JOHN ADAM URICH.

Decatur county has been the home and the scene of the labors of many men whose lives should serve as a lesson and an inspiration to those who follow them upon the stage of life's activities—men who have been of larger usefulness to the community than in clearing the wilderness or amassing great personal fortune. The honored and esteemed Rev. John Adam Urich, pastor of St. Mary's church at Millhousen in Marion township for the past eleven years, is a man of well-rounded character, sincere, devoted and loyal. Standing as he does today at the head of one of the more important Catholic churches in Decatur county, it is fitting that a brief summary of his life and work be given in this volume.

Born on February 16, 1863, at St. Joe, Vanderburg county, Indiana, he is the son of Bernard and Barbara (Wiedner) Urich, the former of whom was born January 1, 1818, and who died on April 5, 1887, and the latter of whom was born in 1820 and died on June 27, 1909. Both were natives of Hambach, Bavaria, Germany, and were born, reared and married in their native land. With their children, Barbara, Mary and Peter, they came to America in 1854, locating in the Catholic settlement at St. Joe, near German township, Vanderburg county, Indiana, a distinct German emigrant neighborhood. The father became a well-to-do citizen, who owned one hundred and eighty acres of land and who died in good circumstances in his old home in Vanderburg county. A brother of his wife, having urged him to locate in America, he and his wife being of sickly natures, on their doctor's advice, came to Indiana. They had seven children, of whom John Adam was the youngest. The other children were: Mrs. Barbara Nurenbern, of Vanderburg county; Mrs. Mary Rallet, of Evansville; Peter, who lives on the old home place; Joseph, of Vanderburg county; Mrs. Margaret Czteller, deceased; Regina Czteller, of Evansville.

After having studied at Tentopolis College in Illinois for two years, the Rev. John Adam Urich entered St. Meinrad College, in Spencer county, Indiana, where he remained for eight years, finishing the theological seminary course. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Francis S. Chatard, at Ferdinand, Indiana, on June 19, 1886, and was assigned the pastorate of St. Anne's church in Jennings county, where he remained until June 15, 1904, when he was placed in charge of St. Mary's church at Millhousen.

During the Rev. John Adam Urich's pastorate of St. Mary's church all of the parish buildings, including the church, school house, the priest's house and the sisters' house, have been painted and reroofed. Three altars, costing two thousand dollars, have been purchased. The interior of the priest's house and the sisters' residence have been renovated, cement walks have been installed, school grounds have been graded, and a wire fence has been erected around the entire property. Gas lights have been installed inside and outside of the church and many other minor improvements have been made. There can be no doubt that the pastorate of the Rev. John Adam Urich has been a distinct success. This is a large parish and comprises altogether one hundred and sixty families.

The Rev. Father Urich is not only successful in his pastoral duties, but he is an eloquent and forceful preacher, a man well learned in the historic foundation of Christianity and a man who is able to inspire his parishioners with love of the Christian church.

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#### GEORGE MENZIE.

Probably there is no man in Decatur county who has a wider acquaintance in the county than the gentleman whose name the reader notes above. One of the most extensive buyers and shippers of live stock in this section of Indiana, he is known to every farmer hereabout and is popular with them all. There is hardly a day in the year that George Menzie does not ship from his yards in Greensburg from one to four cars of cattle, his business aggregating more than five hundred cars annually. In the operation of this extensive business he distributes thousands of dollars throughout the county and is recognized as one of the most active and energetic men in this part of the state. No review of the activities of this county would be complete without a proper reference to Mr. Menzie's part therein, hence it is very fitting that the following biography be set out here.



George Menzie was born in the city of Greensburg, Indiana, on January 6, 1871, the son of John and Mary (Luther) Menzie, the former of whom was a native of Switzerland and the latter of whom was born in Greensburg, this county, both of whom are still living, enjoying their latter days in quiet retirement at their pleasant home in the county seat.

John Menzie was born in Switzerland on December 12, 1837, the son of Jacob and Verina (Snaille) Menzie, the former of whom was a shoemaker. During his early boyhood, John Menzie worked for his uncle in a saw-mill and at the age of sixteen years decided to seek his fortunes in the land of opportunities across the sea. Coming to America, he proceeded to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, at which place his brother, Jacob, had located some years previously. Shortly after his arrival at Lawrenceburg he and his brother went to Chicago, with a view to possible permanent location there, but not finding things just to their liking, returned to Indiana. John went to Greensburg, where for a short time he worked for Charles Zoller in a meat market, later taking occupation as a farm hand in the Springhill neighborhood, in this county. After two years of this form of experience, he returned to Greensburg and entered the butcher business, working for Harvey Anderson and George Menzie, presently becoming the sole owner of this business, in which he became quite prosperous, gradually enlarging the scope of the same to include general dealing in cattle and hogs, becoming an extensive shipper. His shop was located on the corner, which he then owned, but is now occupied by the I. O. O. F. building. In 1905 he turned the business over to his sons, John and George, since which time he has been retired from active business cares.

At the outbreak of the Civil War John Menzie sold out his butcher shop and enlisted in Company F, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. After three months of service, however, he was seized with a serious illness, which so incapacitated him that he was discharged. Returning to Greensburg he found his invalidism did not properly respond to local treatment and took a trip to Europe, finding his health greatly improved thereby. Upon recovering his wonted health, Mr. Menzie returned to Greensburg and resumed the butcher business, success attending him from the very start.

On September 29, 1861, John Menzie was united in marriage to Mary Luther, who was born in Greensburg on October 8, 1844, the daughter of Caleb and Elizabeth (Nice) Luther, natives, respectively, of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Caleb Luther was a contractor and builder who located in Greensburg in the early days and was an active builder there for years.

In 1856 he bought a small farm near the city and there spent the rest of his life. His wife, Elizabeth Nice, was the first teacher in the old seminary in Greensburg, a woman who exerted a very wholesome influence upon the youth of that day in and about the county seat and whose memory still is kept green in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Luther were the parents of four children, Mrs. Abbie Whipple, who died in Iowa; Mrs. Frances Gilchrist, who also died in Iowa; Edward, who died in Leavenworth, Kansas, and Mrs. Menzie. To Mr. and Mrs. Menzie were born two sons, John and George, both of whom live at Greensburg. Two daughters died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. John Menzie are members of the Presbyterian church and are held in the highest esteem in the city in which they live. Mr. Menzie is a Democrat and formerly took much interest in political affairs. He is a member of Pap Thomas Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic, and a member of the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Knights and Ladies of Honor lodges in Greensburg, in all of which he is very popular.

George Menzie was educated in the local schools at Greensburg and at the age of fifteen went to Cincinnati where he remained for three years, learning the butcher business. At the end of this time he returned to Greensburg and for one year worked for Charles Zoller, after which he and his brother, John, engaged in the butcher business for themselves, continuing this association for ten years, at the end of which time, in 1912, John sold his interest to his brother, George, having conducted the business alone since that time, being the exclusive buyer and shipper of live stock in the city of Greensburg, his shipments amounting to as much as five hundred carloads of cattle and hogs annually.

On December 25, 1892, George Menzie was united in marriage to Mollie Rader, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Rader, of Greensburg, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Elizabeth, on July 12, 1894, who is bookkeeper and stenographer for the Sal-Tone Company, of Greensburg.

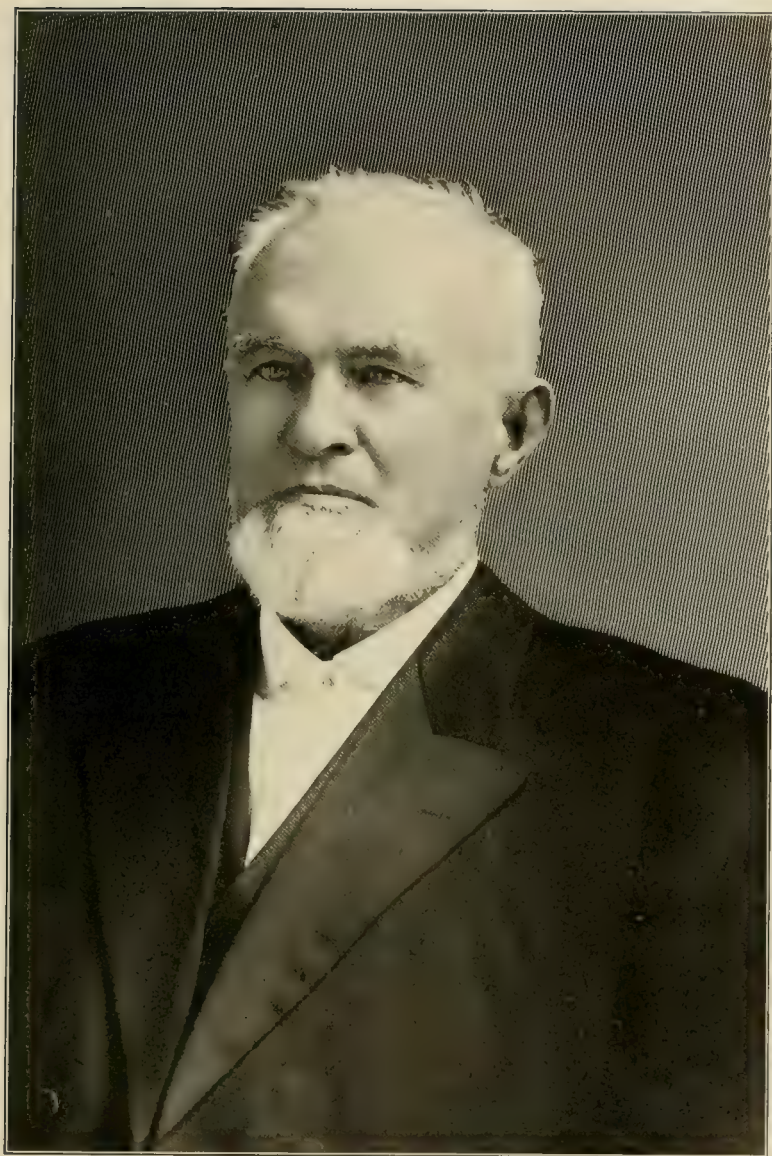
Mr. Menzie is a Democrat and is particularly active in the lodge circles of the city in which he lives. He entered the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias lodges when he was twenty-one years of age; has passed through all the chairs in the encampment of the former order and is past chancellor commander of the local lodge of the latter order. He also is an active member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is a prime favorite in all these lodges. Mr. Menzie is a busy, energetic man, public-spirited and progressive and is regarded as one of the leaders in the busy life of his home city.

## JAMES B. LATHROP.

James B. Lathrop, the president of the Citizens National Bank at Greensburg, Indiana, who is still active in business at the age of ninety years, has had a most interesting career as a pioneer citizen of Indiana. Born of patriotic stock, he represents the second generation of a family which has lived in Decatur county practically ever since the town of Greensburg was laid out in 1822. For thirty-one years a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, he perhaps served as pastor of more cities in Indiana than any other living man. Few men, living or dead, have had more to do with Indiana Methodism than he, having served as pastor in fifteen or twenty Indiana cities, and having in less than twenty years after he began his career as a minister of the Gospel, become a presiding elder in the Methodist church. For many years, however, he has been retired from the ministry, and has been engaged in business in the city of Greensburg.

The Lathrop family had its original home during the fourteenth century in northeastern Yorkshire, England, in what was known at that time as Lothroppe College Rectory, a church and school. The founder of the family in America was the Rev. John Lathrop, a Congregational preacher, whose church in the city of London was raided under the Archbishop of the English church and all of the congregation, including the minister and sixty-six men, thrown into prison. The Rev. John Lathrop was released after having been kept in prison for five years, and took the first vessel for America, landing at Plymouth Rock, where he was greeted by forty of his old congregation. For four years he served as pastor of the church at Scituate in what is now Plymouth county, and was then appointed chaplain to the governor at Boston, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was accustomed to write the annual Thanksgiving proclamation for the governor of Massachusetts.

The next member of the Lathrop family in line of descent from Rev. John Lathrop was Erastus Lathrop, a native of Connecticut, who moved to Canada, and whose property was confiscated by the crown during the War of 1812. He returned to this country and settled in Vermont, where he owned a fine farm on the St. Lawrence river. A brother of Erastus, Ezra by name, served during the War of 1812. Erastus himself was a captain in the home guards, a company which was called out at the battle of Lake Champlain. He was a well-known Baptist minister in his day and generation. On his father's farm, located near the St. Lawrence river in Canada, Ezra Lathrop, the father of James B., was born in 1803. Ezra was a native



REV. JAMES B. LATHROP.





of Canada and was reared in that country. During the year of 1812 the family refused to take the oath of allegiance to the British crown. About 1822, the year in which the town of Greensburg was laid out, Ezra Lathrop came west to Decatur county, Indiana, with his father. They selected one hundred and sixty acres of land adjoining the site of the county seat, and also another one hundred and sixty acres north of the present site of Greensburg. Erastus, having returned home to bring back the family, died of typhoid fever. Ezra, the brother, came to Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1817, and grew to manhood, the hired man having, in the meantime, made a camp out of the bark of a poplar tree. During the winter of 1812 they lived on the site of Webb Woodfill's present residence. They cleared ten acres of land and in the spring returned for the mother and her other children.

Ezra Lathrop married Abi Potter, a member of the pioneer family of Huguenot descent, who fled from France, and who settled first in South Carolina, and later migrated to North Carolina. Nathaniel Potter, the father of Abi Potter, lived near where the battle of Cowpens was fought, and he had four brothers who were soldiers in the American Revolution. Subsequently he moved into Kentucky and from there moved to Decatur county, where he purchased several tracts of land. He gave each of his eight children eighty acres, and retained for his own use one hundred and sixty acres east of town. He was an important man in his day and generation and was considered extremely wealthy. Ezra Lathrop inherited considerable land from his father. During the first few years of his residence in Decatur county he did odd jobs, and during the second year he got a contract with another man for the building of the brick school house in Fugit township. The partner, however, absconded with all the profits, and Ezra got nothing. Eventually, however, he became a successful contractor and a manufacturer of brick, building many houses in Greensburg. He served as justice of the peace, having jurisdiction over the entire county, and held this office for a period of twenty years. A dry goods merchant, he also loaned money. The old home farm, adjacent to the town of Greensburg, two miles north, and upon which a part of the present city of Greensburg is built, he sold for two hundred and fifty dollars per acre. After having reared a family of two children to maturity, Ezra Lathrop died in 1894. Six children, however, were born to himself and wife, four of them dying in infancy. Levi, one of the sons who grew to maturity, died in 1884, and the other son is James B., the subject of this sketch, who was born on November 24, 1825, in a one-story brick house, which stood in the

second square from the court house on East Washington street, and which Ezra Lathrop had built probably in 1823.

The venerable James B. Lathrop received an extraordinary education for his day and generation, having been instructed in the pioneer schools of Greensburg, and at Indiana University. Immediately after leaving college he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church. Beginning in 1847, at the age of twenty-two, he served almost continuously as pastor of some church for thirty-one years. He was first called upon to fill a vacancy on the Martinsville circuit. Later he was transferred to Greenville, having in the meantime eighteen appointments in school houses, homes and churches. At Vincennes, Indiana, he had a very hard field, but was able to establish two new churches. From Vincennes he was transferred to Point Commerce on the Wabash river. From Point Commerce he went to Franklin, Indiana, a very poor church, which had only fifty members as late as 1851. Among other charges he was pastor of the church at Connersville, Vevay, Madison, Brookville, Columbus, Rushville, Aurora and Adams. When he went to Adams, there were only sixteen members, and within two years during his pastorate the church had increased to one hundred members and a new building had been dedicated. The Greensburg church had the best village Sunday school in Decatur county.

After a brief absence from the ministry, during which he was engaged in business with his brother at Greensburg, he returned to Connersville in the fall of 1864, and became presiding elder, a position which he held for two years, having jurisdiction over the Indianapolis district, and completing the balance of the six-year term on Moores Hill district, as the result of having traded districts with Elder Holliday, of Moores Hill. He was presiding elder of the Lawrenceburg and Moores Hill districts for six years each.

At one time Reverend Lathrop was in charge of the Grace Methodist Episcopal church in Indianapolis, but on account of the death of his brother and the aged parents, he returned home and served as pastor within the Milroy circuit for four years.

On the death of his brother in 1884, Mr. Lathrop became guardian for his children, and had charge of his deceased brother's estate. Subsequently, he became guardian for two girls left fatherless, and served in this capacity for five years. The father having been a mill owner, Mr. Lathrop operated the mill for the children for one year, selling the mill to a company. He operated the mill for the company for five years. He has been connected with the Citizens National Bank of Greensburg for many years, and on his father's death became manager of his estate, assisted by Lewis

E. Lathrop, which position he held until 1884, when he turned the estate, amounting to a hundred thousand dollars, over to his children.

In this connection it may be said that Mr. Lathrop's career as a minister ended with a final period of four years during which he was a junior preacher on the Milroy circuit.

On November 28, 1848, James B. Lathrop was married to Mary C. Butler, who was born in Bloomington, Indiana, and who was the daughter of F. T. Butler. Mrs. Lathrop was born in 1830 and died in 1897. She was the mother of six children, two of whom died early in life. Levi died at the age of twelve years, and William died at the age of two years. The other children are Mrs. Ella Gavin, wife of Judge Gavin, of Indianapolis; Lizzie, who lives with her father; Harry, the secretary of the Business Men's Association of Greensburg, and Mrs. Margaret Shannon, wife of John Shannon, who lives one and one-half miles northwest of Greensburg.

James B. Lathrop has been a life-long Republican. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and is a Knight Templar, being a member of the Baldwin Commandery at Shelbyville, Indiana.

Possessed with a genius for public service, the influence of James B. Lathrop will live when he is gone. As his career is nearing a close he may enjoy the satisfaction of looking back on a life which has been spent in his Master's vineyard. Having carried the Christian Gospel to the people of this state at a time when it involved a greater sacrifice than at present, and having been a true servant, it is not too much to believe that his work will be approved by the One he has served in these well-known words,

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Mr. Lathrop became a stockholder of the Citizens Bank at Greensburg, Indiana, in 1873. He has served as president of the bank for several years.

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#### ANTHONY HABIG.

Among the thriving businesses in Decatur county, Indiana, is that of the Habig Real Estate Agency, established in 1897 by Anthony Habig. This firm not only deals in farms and city properties in Indiana and Ohio, but also has a large loan business and deals in lands in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Canada and Oklahoma. The company has handled a considerable acreage of land during its existence, Mr. Habig buying and selling thousands of acres principally upon the commission basis.

Although Anthony Habig is not a native of this county, he has resided



here now for twenty-five years and is naturally well known. He was born in Cincinnati on December 5, 1870, the son of Joseph and Theresa Habig, natives of Cincinnati, who moved to Indiana in 1880 and located on a farm one mile east of Shelbyville. They later resided in Greensburg and he was engaged in the milling business until 1897, when they moved to Indianapolis, where they died in 1905.

Mr. Habig has resided in Greensburg since 1890. From 1890 to 1897, he was employed in the office of the mill operated by his father. In the latter year he engaged in the real estate business and has been continuously engaged since that time.

In 1891 Mr. Habig was married to Ethel Fromer, of Greensburg and to them have been born two children, Marguerite and Velma.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Habig has never taken a special part in the councils of his party. He has never held office nor has he ever aspired to office, devoting his time almost exclusively to his own private business. Fraternally, Mr. Habig is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Knights of St. John and is prominent in both organizations. The Habig family are all members of the Catholic church and are liberal contributors to its support.

Anthony Habig is a man, who, in his dealings with the public, has established an enviable reputation for honorable and square dealings. In his business especially this is an important asset and it is responsible largely for the splendid clientage which he today enjoys. He also handles old line fire insurance, Hanover Fire Insurance Company, New York City; Aachen and Munich, New York City; also has a rent-collecting department.

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#### BERNARD H. BLANKMAN.

In the history of our country, the schoolroom has led directly to many positions of trust and responsibility, and many of our celebrated statesmen today are men who began their active careers in life as teachers in the public schools. Bernard H. Blankman, the present surveyor of Decatur county, Indiana, who began teaching at the age of eighteen, was engaged continuously in this profession for fourteen years. He is a man who is well known to the people of Decatur county, and who, having given a satisfactory measure of service during his first term as county surveyor, was triumphantly re-elected in the fall of 1914 to serve a second term.



MR. AND MRS. BERNARD H. BLANKMAN.



Bernard H. Blankman, the county surveyor of Decatur county, was born on October 28, 1877, at Millhousen, Indiana, where he now resides. He is the son of Henry and Mary (Goldschmidt) Blankman, the former of whom was born on December 6, 1849, in Cincinnati, and the latter of whom was born in 1857 in the same city. Nine children were born to Henry and Mary Blankman; Bernard, the subject of this sketch; Edward, Frank, August, William and Mrs. Clara Vaske, all of whom reside at Bigelow, Minnesota; Mrs. Josephine Ruhl, who lives in Millhousen; John and Theodore, who still live at home.

Henry Blankman was the son of Bernard H. and Angela (Lueken) Blankman, both of whom were born in Germany, although not in the same state. They came to America when still young people, met and were married in Cincinnati, Ohio. They moved to Millhousen, Decatur county, when their son, Henry, was six year old. Mr. Blankman's maternal grandparents were John Bernard and Elizabeth (Brinkers) Goldschmidt, who were also born in Germany. They moved to Millhousen, Decatur county, when Mr. Blankman's mother was eleven years old. Henry Blankman and Mary Goldschmidt were married in Millhousen.

Bernard H. Blankman attended the parochial school at Millhousen until fourteen years of age, and was then a student in the district school, No. 6, in Marion township, being graduated from the district school at the age of seventeen. Subsequently, he attended the Central Normal College at Danville, Indiana, during the summer of 1895, preparatory to teaching. He has learned surveying by home study and by practical work. Mr. Blankman taught school for fourteen years, having begun at the age of eighteen. He taught until 1913, when he assumed the duties of surveyor, having been elected to the office in November, 1912. This office was wholly unsought, as Mr. Blankman is in no sense of the word a politician. He gave such excellent service that he was re-elected in 1914. During the three years that he has held the office he has had no trouble and during this period has had charge of all land surveys, the building of macadamized roads and all bridges in Decatur county. Mr. Blankman has one hundred acres of land—well improved farm—which he rents out. He, however, still lives on his farm.

On June 7, 1905, Mr. Blankman was married in Millhousen to Clara M. Hardebeck, who was born at Millhousen on December 4, 1885, and who is the daughter of Henry and Rebecca (Funke) Hardebeck, the former of whom was born near Marion, Indiana, on January 27, 1840, and who died on October 10, 1913. The latter was born in Germany on February 2,



1845. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Josephine Steltenpohl; Mrs. Mary Butz; Mrs. Cecelia Ronnebaum; Frances, at home; Theodore, a farmer of Marion township; Louis and Henry, also at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Blankman have had five children: Cyril, who was born on December 14, 1907; Paul, August 20, 1909; Alvin, May 17, 1911; Laura, October 21, 1913, and Orval Theo, June 20, 1915.

Fraternally, Mr. Blankman is a member of the Knights of St. John. He and his wife and family are members of the Catholic church and he is identified with the Democratic party. He owes his nomination and election as county surveyor to this party.

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### HARRY EMMERT.

An enterprise of which the people of Greensburg are very proud, and one which finally passed under the control of local capitalists, is the Greensburg Water Company, which supplies water to the citizens of Greensburg from thirty driven wells by the latest compressed air system. The Greensburg Water Company, of which Harry Emmert is vice-president and general manager, has one of the finest plants in Indiana, and one which is entirely adequate for a much larger city. The new system, which was installed in 1915 after two years' work at a cost of forty thousand dollars, makes it possible to pump water to a radius of one and one-half miles. Although this company was organized in 1888 by Samuel R. Bullock, a few years later it was owned by the Prudential Water Company, of Rochester, New York, and in 1901 passed to the control of residents of this city. For almost twenty years Harry Emmert has been the general manager of this plant, and its splendid success is so closely intertwined with his career as a business man, that it seems fitting here to emphasize its importance to the comfort and convenience of the city of Greensburg. The present president of the company is David A. Myers. Mr. Emmert is vice-president and general manager. James B. Kitchen is secretary and treasurer. These officers with W. W. Woodfill and W. H. Robbins comprise the board of directors. The company, which is capitalized at one hundred thousand dollars, employs ten people.

Harry Emmert, who has been general manager of the Greensburg Water Company since 1896, was born on October 6, 1868, in Greensburg, but is the son of native-born German parents, John and Catherine (Seitz)

Emmert. The former, who was born in Mannheim, Germany, came to this country a poor boy, and attended night school after coming here to obtain an education. Coming to Greensburg, Indiana, in 1866, he built the Garland mills, and operated these mills until his death. Before coming to Greensburg he had lived in Lawrenceburg, to which place he came in 1853. He not only was engaged in the milling business, but he was a miller by trade, as was his father before him, and no doubt his technical knowledge of the business was, in a large measure, responsible for his great success. During his life John Emmert was an influential man in Decatur county. A Democrat in politics, he served as councilman of Greensburg for a number of years, and was public-spirited, progressive, industrious and became very wealthy. A member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for many years, he was prominent in that organization. There were three eventful years in the career of John Emmert. In 1845, when he came to America with his parents and located at Trenton, New Jersey; in 1853, when he located at Lawrenceburg, where he was married to Catherine Seitz, and in 1866, when he came to Greensburg, Indiana, where the most of his fortune was acquired. His wife, who before her marriage was Catherine Seitz, was born in Alsace-Lorraine, and was brought to America with her parents when four years old, in 1838. They first located in Hamilton, Ohio, but her father, Christopher Seitz, later removed to Dearborn county, where he became a farmer. John Emmert died in 1882, while his wife survived him many years, dying in 1909.

Harry Emmert grew up in the milling business of his father, having worked in his father's mill from the time he was a small lad. In the meantime he received a liberal education in the public and high schools of Greensburg, and when finishing high school was reasonably well equipped for a business career. At the age of twenty-eight he became manager of the Greensburg Water Company, and with the growth of this company he also has grown as a business man, having become, in the meantime, president of the Citizens Gas Supply Company, a fifteen thousand dollar corporation, president of the Sand Creek Gas Company, a five thousand dollar corporation, which supplies natural gas to the Citizens Gas Supply Company, besides being extensively interested in other important local enterprises.

Mr. Emmert has never married. He is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Presbyterian church. He is a member of the Masonic lodge, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Water, as we all know, is a public utility and a public convenience and

necessity, and the man who is responsible for furnishing pure, clean water to the people of a city, performs a greater service than a man can perform in almost any other way. Mr. Emmert is a skilled manager, and being supplied with the best equipment, he naturally is in a position to maintain cordial relations with the public. In the city of Greensburg he is very popular..

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### NELSON MOWREY.

Decatur county has produced men who have risen to distinction in many different fields of endeavor, but it is safe to say that no man has made a more pronounced success of agriculture than Nelson Mowrey. Born in this county more than eighty years ago, he has made it his life-long residence and has never cared to exchange it for any other home. Decatur county has been good enough for him.

There is probably no other occupation which yields the certain returns that may come to the farmer, and the striking success which has attended the efforts of Mr. Mowrey are ample evidence that he has applied his energies in such a way as to produce maximum results. Starting out in life with only a small competency he has labored to the end that he has accumulated more material wealth from the soil than any other farmer who has ever tilled the soil in the county.

But it is not mere wealth which makes a man. If it were, there would be no outcry against the men of wealth in this country today. It is the use of the wealth once gained which marks the true American citizen, and it is in this particular that Mr. Mowrey stands high in the estimation of his fellow citizens. More than one church in the county can testify to his generosity; more than one congregation in the county today is doing the Master's work better and more efficiently because of the broad philanthropic spirit of Mr. Mowrey. The crowning act of Mr. Mowrey, however, which shows his worth as a public-spirited citizen was his gift to the city of Greensburg which made the magnificent new Young Men's Christian Association building a possibility. This was erected in 1915, solely through the munificence of Mr. Mowrey and will stand as a monument through many generations yet to come. Thus it may be seen why Mr. Mowrey merits the title of the "Grand old man of Greensburg."

Nelson Mowrey, the son of Joel and Priscilla (King) Mowrey, was born on July 30, 1832, in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana. His

father, a native of Kentucky, was a thrifty citizen for his day and generation and when he came from Kentucky to Decatur county in the early twenties, he at once set about to carve a place out of the primeval wilderness. Here he and his good wife lived until their death, he passing away in 1834, when Nelson was only two years of age. The mother was left with a family of four children, Nelson being the youngest. The other three children, John L., Malinda Jane and Thurza Ann, are deceased. Nelson was born in a log cabin which is still standing. His mother lived to a ripe old age, dying at the age of seventy-eight in 1880.

Educational opportunities were exceedingly meager in the boyhood days of Mr. Mowrey. The old-fashioned log school house was still in vogue and the only school was what was known as the subscription school and was in session seldom more than three months in the year. It is a well-known fact that the long nine months' vacation often caused the youngsters of that day to forget practically all that they had learned in the short three months that they were permitted to attend during the winter season. Nevertheless, Mr. Mowrey got a good knowledge of the elements of the "Three R's" in such a school and this was supplemented by wide reading in later life so that he became a well-informed man. He continued to reside on the home farm with his mother and the other members of the family until he was twenty-four years of age, at which time he was given his share in the paternal estate, which amounted to fourteen hundred dollars, and with this small amount he started out to make his way alone in the world. It is not the purpose of this brief summary of Mr. Mowrey's life to follow his career in detail through the long years which have followed. Only the larger landmarks in his career will be noticed.

On March 1, 1857, Mr. Mowrey moved to a farm one and one-half miles south of the old home place and six miles west of Greensburg. This farm of eighty acres was soon increased by the purchase of one hundred and forty-five acres, and on this farm of two hundred and twenty-five acres, he lived until 1887. In the meantime he had been buying land in other parts of the county and in 1887 he moved on to one of his eighty-acre farms in Clay township. Year after year saw his acreage increase until he had accumulated twenty-eight hundred acres of land in the county.

The acquisition of such an extensive estate could only come about by the closest application and the widest foresight. Much of the wealth of Mr. Mowrey has come about by the natural increase in the value of his land, much of which has increased several fold in value since he acquired it. Mr. Mowrey continued in the active management of his extensive farming



interests until his marriage in the fall of 1907, since which time he has made his home in Greensburg.

Mr. Mowrey was married on October 2, 1907, to Carrie F. Seitz, who was born in Patriot, Indiana, a daughter of Michael and Sophia Seitz. Her parents were natives of Germany and first located in Switzerland county, Indiana, upon coming to this country. A few years later they settled in Dearborn county where they made their home the remainder of their lives.

The career of Mr. Mowrey has been altogether too active as a farmer and financier to permit of any participation in politics. He has always been identified with the Republican party and given it his hearty support at all times. While he leans to the Christian church, yet he has been a generous contributor to all denominations. Fraternally, he has been a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Milford for many years.

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#### WALTER W. BONNER.

The life of every man is influenced by two factors, heredity and environment, and no one can say which of these two factors has the most to do with determining the career of a man. Fortunate, indeed, is the man who has good blood in his veins, for undoubtedly, as the old adage says, "Blood will tell." However, there are too many exceptions to the statement that heredity counts for everything; too many men of the Lincoln type have risen to fame to believe that heredity accounts for all our eminent men. Environment must be given credit for many things and he who says that one or the other factor makes a man assumes a knowledge of men which the facts will not warrant. The career of Walter W. Bonner happily illustrates a combination of heredity and environment and in his case both factors have united in such a manner as to make him a man of the highest type of American citizenship.

Starting in life as a lawyer, Mr. Bonner soon left the profession to enter banking and has made this his life-long work. For more than thirty years he has been identified with the Third National Bank of Greensburg.

Walter W. Bonner was born near Springhill, Decatur county, Indiana, on July 30, 1860, a son of William H. and Narcissa E. (Elliott) Bonner. His father was born in Wilcox county, Alabama, a son of James and Mary P. (Foster) Bonner, who came with his parents to Decatur county in 1836.

The father of James Bonner was a Scotch Presbyterian and left his home in the north of Ireland toward the end of the eighteenth century. He came to America and settled on a plantation near Anderson, South Carolina, not far from the historic old plantation which was destined in after years to become the home of John C. Calhoun, and there James Bonner was born. The latter was reared near Abbeville, South Carolina, and there married Mary P. Foster, whose father, James Foster, was born in the north of Ireland, and who became a farmer after his migration to South Carolina and in 1837 came to this county, settling on a farm in the Springhill neighborhood, where he spent the rest of his life. Two years after his marriage James Bonner moved to Wilcox county, Alabama, where he dwelt for sixteen years, owning and operating a large plantation, the work of which was performed by slaves. Coming to hate the institution of slavery, he sold his slaves in a body to his brother and, in the spring of 1836, came to this county, becoming a large farmer in Fugit township, where he died at the age of fifty-five. Mary, the wife, died in 1837, where he was married a second time. James Bonner was the father of six children, two daughters who died in early womanhood, James F., Dr. John I., William H., father of the immediate subject of this sketch, and Robert, who died in childhood.

William H. Bonner was reared on the home farm near Springhill and was a farmer all his life. He became a man of large influence in the county and in 1868 was elected representative from this county to the state Legislature. He served one term in a manner very acceptable to his constituents, but declined a re-nomination. Hon. William H. Bonner for many years was one of the leaders of the Republican party in this part of the state and was influential in all good ways. He was a member of the United Presbyterian church and served for many years as a ruling elder of the local congregation. He was twice married, his first wife having been Elmira L. Hamilton, a sister of Thomas M. Hamilton. Upon her death, he married, secondly, Narcissa E. Elliott, to which union there were born two sons and one daughter, Henry E., a farmer of this county; Walter W., with whom this biography directly treats, and Mary F. The Hon. William H. Bonner died on August 12, 1874.

Walter W. Bonner was educated in the district schools of Fugit township and in Indiana University at Bloomington. In the year 1881 he began studying law in the office of Miller & Gavin, in Greensburg, and in 1882 was admitted to practice at the bar of the Decatur circuit court. He did not practice law very long, however, for when the Third National Bank was opened at Greensburg he entered that institution as a bookkeeper and

in 1884 was promoted to the position of assistant cashier, being advanced to the responsible position of cashier on February 3, 1887, which position he since has held, his services having proved most satisfactory to the directors of this excellent financial institution.

On September 15, 1884, Walter W. Bonner was united in marriage to Libbie Donnell, of Springhill, to which union there was born one child, a daughter, Ruth, who married Homer G. Meek and has one child, Mary Lois.

Mr. Bonner is one of the best-known and most successful financiers in this part of the state. To his excellent direction of affairs undoubtedly is due much of the strength of the sound financial institution with which he is connected and he has the utmost confidence of all business men throughout this part of the state.

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#### THOMAS KNOX SMILEY.

Nearing the three-score-and-ten mark along the highway of life, calm and serene, at peace with the world and a lover of all mankind, there is one man in Decatur county to whom the incidental worries and vexations that at times beset most mortals mean very little, for his philosophy of life contains no room for the word "worry." Living nearly half a century on the farm on which he still makes his home, he is known to everyone in the part of the county in which he resides, and, as he is a friend of all, all are friends to him, few persons thereabout having a wider personal popularity than he. Jovial, genial, sunny-tempered and full of the joy of living; prosperous and well-circumstanced, possessed of a fine farm of two hundred and thirty-eight acres of choice land in Clay township, on which he lives a life of quiet ease, enjoying the evening of his life as he well deserves to enjoy it; T. K. Smiley, better known to his neighbors and friends as Knox Smiley, is regarded by many as a most fortunate man. A good citizen, a kind and generous neighbor, public-spirited and enterprising, Mr. Smiley has done his part in the advancement of the best interests of the community of which he so long has been a part, and it is a pleasure on the part of the biographer to here present a few of the salient points in his life.

Thomas Knox Smiley was born in the state of Ohio on May 30, 1846, the son of William and Mary Ann (Kenny) Smiley, both of whom were of Irish descent. William Smiley's father emigrated from Ireland to this country and settled in Pennsylvania, where he reared a family and spent the remainder of his days. Mary Ann Kenny was born in New Jersey.



THOMAS K. SMILEY.





Her mother was a Boston woman, and from a nearby hill was an interested spectator of the battle of Bunker Hill, the presumption being that her husband, in common with most of the patriots of that city, was a participant in that historic struggle. Later the Kennys moved from New Jersey, to which latter state they had emigrated from Massachusetts, to Ohio, where the parents of Mrs. Smiley spent the rest of their lives.

William Smiley was born in Pennsylvania on March 14, 1814, the son of Irish parents, and upon reaching manhood's estate moved to Ohio, where he married Mary Ann Kenny about the year 1838, and on January 9, 1849, came to Decatur county, settling in Clay township on what is now known as the Smiley homestead. He bought land at that time for ten dollars an acre that now is worth more than ten times that price. William Smiley was a man of strong character, a stanch and upright citizen and an excellent farmer. He was energetic and enterprising and speedily began to prosper, eventually becoming the owner of nine hundred or one thousand acres of land in Clay township and gaining the reputation of being one of the shrewdest business men in that part of the county. He and his wife were members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith. Mr. Smiley was an ardent Democrat and took an active interest in political affairs. In one election years ago he was the candidate of his party for the office of county commissioner from his district, and despite the fact that the county at that time returned an overwhelming Republican majority, he was defeated by but two votes, a circumstance which attested unmistakably his popularity throughout the county. As their children grew to manhood and womanhood, Mr. and Mrs. Smiley divided their large land holdings among them and for nearly twenty years lived a life of pleasant retirement in the city of Greensburg. Mr. Smiley died in Greensburg in June, 1893, at the age of seventy-nine years. His widow survived him just three years and she also died at the age of seventy-nine. They were a most estimable old couple and the memory of their wholesome lives and good deeds lives long after them.

To William and Mary Ann (Kenny) Smiley were born the following children: Permelia, deceased, who was the wife of James L. Henry; Caroline, who married Edward Sefton; George W., deceased, father of William G. Smiley, who died in 1907, on the old Smiley homestead and was a very successful farmer, being the owner of seven hundred acres of fine land; Harvey K. married a daughter of John E. Robbins and died in 1915; Thomas Knox, the immediate subject of this sketch; William F., who lives

in Greensburg, this county; Mary, who died in August, 1914; Sovereign Patrick, who lives in Texas, and Margaret, the widow of William Johnson.

Thomas Knox Smiley has always lived the life of a bachelor, and makes his home with Frank Jalop and wife on the old Smiley homestead, three and one-half miles southwest of the village of Burney, on the Greensburg and Columbus road. He is a member of the Methodist church at Hartsville and was one of the charter members of the Knights of Pythias lodge at the same place. He is a Democrat and takes an earnest interest in political affairs, but has never sought office. He became the owner of a goodly farm in the distribution of the home acres, but to his share he has added one hundred and twenty acres, acquired by his own industry, and is very well circumstanced. Though still giving careful attention to the general details of his extensive farming operations, Mr. Smiley for the past ten years has lived practically retired from the active duties of the farm and is taking life easy. The good cheer which he brings into his intercourse with his neighbors, makes him a prime favorite in the neighborhood and no one thereabout is more popular than he.

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#### JAMES FRANCIS HAMILTON.

A noted Hoosier historian has said, "There is but one end in life that is worth while, and that is to conquer adversity, pain, envy, regrets, ambitions, and the varied obstacles that are put in our path to develop our fortitude, our courage and our brains." If this be true, the life of the man whose name appears above has been eminently worth while, for he has graduated from the "University of Hard Knocks." He knows the joys of success, the bitterness of misfortune, and has the mental poise to meet both like a man. When but a lad he was called upon to face disappointment, to give up his own education that he might help a bereaved father to care for six younger brothers and sisters, but this he did without a murmur, and thus perhaps were forged the elements of character which later contributed to his success as a man, and in relation to society. James Francis Hamilton, the well-known merchant and undertaker of Westport, was born on August 17, 1869, in the town in which his past and present home is located.

Mr. Hamilton's grandfather on the paternal side came from Kentucky to clear and enter the land which became the homestead of this noted family.

This man, James F. Hamilton, was of the stalwart nature of which pioneers are made, and was an ancestor of whom any descendant might be proud. He was born in 1803, and passed away at the age of seventy years. It was in the early thirties when he and his bride, formerly Judah Owens, came to Decatur county, and began planning for the home that was destined to remain in the family for the next thirty-five years. This land was situated one and one-half miles northwest of Westport. The brave wife of this sturdy pioneer, who was a native of Virginia, was born on December 14, 1799, and died on June 20, 1898. One of their children was George W., who later became the father of the subject of this brief biography. George was born on May 10, 1837, and died on July 29, 1899. His wife, Mary Jane Conwell, who was born on February 3, 1847, belonged to one of the most prominent families in the state. Her Western progenitors formed part of that brave band of pioneers whose courage and heroism in opening up a new and rugged country has made it possible for us to live in peace and plenty. George, of course, was born on the farm of his parents, and after the meager school course then provided, he managed a store in Gaynorsville for four years beginning in 1869. He then became a salesman for the Singer Sewing Machine Company, engaging in this occupation until 1883, when his health became broken and he retired. There were seven children, the eldest of whom was only a lad in short trousers. The children thus early deprived of a father's care were: James Francis, our subject; Clara Maude, who died in September, 1895; Clem E., a farmer of Marion township; John C., of Greensburg; Charles L., who later became a railroad man with headquarters in Indianapolis; George C., employed in a furniture store, and Mary V., who lives in Westport with her mother.

After May 20, 1882, James had to assume duties heavy for the shoulders of thirteen summers, and there followed days of toil and nights of dull weariness that tested the courage of the manly little fellow. He attended school until his thirteenth year, and then was obliged to put his books on the shelf and to go on errands for a storekeeper, moving to Westport that he might be near his work. The qualities that afterward made him a prosperous merchant and bank official early began to assert themselves, and his weekly earnings were soon a very substantial increase to the family budget which was to shelter, feed and clothe six little brothers and sisters. James remained an employee of the storekeeper until he went into business for himself, which happened when he was twenty-three years of age. Then he became a merchant in the flour and feed business, continuing this for five years. On January 20, 1897, he had an opportunity to buy



out an undertaking establishment, which he did, adding to this, two months later, a furniture store. So rapidly did his business grow that new quarters became necessary, and on May 13, 1914, ground was broken for a handsome two-story brick structure, forty-two by seventy feet. While the whole building, including two floors and basement, is used for store purposes, it is so conveniently arranged that there are two separate departments for the furniture and undertaking business, respectively. The cost of the house was over twelve thousand dollars. Thorough in everything that he does, Mr. Hamilton has spared no pains in the construction and equipment of this handsome business block, which is one of the finest in southern Indiana. A private office, a casket display and dressing room comprise the undertaking department, which maintains two funeral wagons and an ambulance besides a splendid team which is owned and kept by Mr. Hamilton. The basement is appropriately built and arranged for the display of rugs and draperies, while the third floor is taken up with furniture. The building has a modern elevator, and its own electric light and water plant. The owner carries stock valued at ten thousand dollars.

The wife of Mr. Hamilton was formerly Mary M. Link, a daughter of John Link, of Milhousen. The marriage occurred on November 22, 1893. Their only daughter, Leona J., who is nineteen years of age, having been born on May 6, 1896, is a graduate of the Westport high school, being a member of the class of 1914.

Mr. Hamilton is one of the "live wires" of Decatur county. He first plans out carefully a course of action, and, having determined upon what ought to be done, he does it. In business he is alert and progressive, as is evidenced by the fact that he believes in advertising, and spends large sums of money for this purpose. As an illustration of his energy and will-power may be cited the fact that when he was ready to build, a dwelling which stood in the way was unceremoniously removed, although it had stood firmly on one spot since 1838.

No higher honor can be paid to a business man by any community than to make him president of its chamber of commerce. This mark of esteem has been bestowed upon Mr. Hamilton because of his merit. Besides being the head official of the Westport Chamber of Commerce, he is vice-president of the First National Bank of that town, and in this capacity has added influence to the community.

As it seems impossible to classify a man before we know what he believes as to politics and religion, it may be of interest to note that Mr. Hamilton is an ardent Democrat, and a member of St. Denis's Catholic

church. He is also active in the Knights of Columbus, Council 1042. Here, as in business circles, his business acumen, as well as the qualities which go to make up the sort of man we respect, make him a leader. He becomes a power in whatever organization or movement to which he gives his name.

In all of the activities of her husband Mrs. Hamilton has been perhaps a silent, but a potent partner. In the conflicts and problems of a strenuous life, it has been her pleasure to co-operate, and in making their home a real home to lighten the burdens and cares of the outside world into which every man is forced to go.

It is impossible to close this summary of a man's life without paying to him a tribute not only for his character as an individual, but for his public service. It means much to a community to have within itself men who are stanch and true to their convictions as to right and wrong; men who, while building up their own fortunes, are not unmindful of the needs and misfortunes of others, and, most of all, men whose lives are guided by high moral principles and purposes. Such is the man we have endeavored to describe.

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#### SMITH B. BUSSELL.

Smith B. Bussell belongs to that large colony of retired farmers of Decatur county now living in Greensburg and is himself the owner and proprietor of a highly productive farm of two hundred and sixty acres, situated in Clay township near the Liberty church. It is only during his later years that he has been engaged in farming, his earlier years having been devoted largely to mechanical pursuits and especially to contract building, in which he was very successful.

Smith B. Bussell was born on November 29, 1849, in Hamilton county, Ohio, the son of Moses and Eliza (Garrison) Bussell, natives of Florence, Kentucky, and Hamilton county, Ohio, respectively, the former of whom was born in 1800 and died in March, 1857, and the latter of whom was born in 1820 and died in 1864. Moses Bussell was the son of a native-born English gentleman, who settled in Virginia, the Bussell family having been related on the paternal side to the mother of General Washington. From Virginia the family moved to Kentucky, and here the parents of Smith B. Bussell lived and died. Eliza Garrison was the daughter of Jonas and Priscilla Garrison, early settlers in Hamilton county, Ohio. The great-grandfather of Mr. Bussell, Joseph Garrison, entered land where the court

house now stands. Finding this land very wet and flat, he later moved to higher land. Moses and Eliza Bussell had a family of seven sons, three of whom, Joseph, the eldest; John, the third, and Thomas, the sixth; are deceased. The others are Erastus, of Wichita, Kansas; Smith B., the subject of this sketch; George, who lives in Greensburg, and Ezra, who lives in Cleves, Hamilton county, Ohio.

Being only eight years old at the time of his mother's death, Smith B. Bussell grew up among strangers and was compelled to shift for himself. Coming to Decatur county in 1870, having learned the mechanic's trade in Cincinnati, he worked as a builder until 1880, a period of ten years, and then engaged in general contract building until 1900, a period of twenty years, specializing during this period in the construction of foundations. For six years he was superintendent of the Greensburg Limestone Company. Since 1900 Mr. Bussell has been engaged in farming. In the meantime, he has invested his savings in farm real estate, and now owns two hundred and sixty acres near the Liberty church in Clay township, where general farming and stock raising are carried on.

Mr. Bussell has been twice married, the first time in 1872, two years after coming to this county, to Mary Foster, of Greensburg, who was born in Gallipolis, Ohio, and who died in February, 1911. She was the mother of three children, two of whom died in infancy. William, the first-born, died in April, 1912, about one year after his mother's death, at the age of thirty-nine, he having been born in 1873. At the time of his death he was a member of the Decatur county board of commissioners and a large farmer. He left a widow, who before her marriage was Margaret Emmert, and one daughter, Helen Catherine. Harry and Louis, the other two children born to Smith B. and Mary Bussell, died at the age of four months and six weeks, respectively. In September, 1912, Mr. Bussell was married again to Gertrude Kerr, a native of Greensburg and the daughter of David R. Kerr.

Mr. Bussell has always been actively attached to the principles of the Democratic party and its candidates. For sixteen years he served as a member of the Greensburg city council. He is a member of the Baptist church, while fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Bussell is well known in this county and he commands the confidence and respect of his fellow townsmen and is universally liked not only in private, but in public life. His success in business was founded upon sterling integrity, a scrupulous code of right dealings with his associates.

## WILLIAM G. UPDIKE.

It is one of the primary purposes of this volume to give fitting recognition to those representative men who, by their force of character, have aided in the advancement of the city or town or county in which they live, and by so doing, have made such place better and more attractive for the homes of others. Based upon this premise, the man whose name heads this article is entitled to consideration, for his life has been an integral part of the community, and his energies have been directed to those measures which make for the common good. It is the altruism of such men that advances civilization, and that helps to make life worth while for the masses. William G. Updike, who belongs to one of the oldest families in America, was born on April 29, 1850, in Franklin county, and came with his parents, to Decatur county when he was eleven years of age.

As a successful farmer, a county commissioner and township trustee, Mr. Updike has filled an unusually prominent place in the community. He is the son of Elijah and Matilda (Gilbreath) Updike, the former having been born on August 4, 1818, and died on May 10, 1893. Peter Updike, father of Elijah and grandfather of William G., was a native of Pennsylvania, and early in the country's history, packed his household goods in wagons, and brought his family to the rough timber lands of Indiana, looking into the uncertain and dangerous future with faith in himself and in the God of his fathers. Nor was that faith disappointed, as the after years have proven. It was in Franklin county that Elijah began his life on earth, and when he had reached manhood, he married, and made his home on a farm two miles north of Westport. His wife, whose maiden name was Matilda Gilbreath, was twice married, and was, at the time of her marriage to Elijah Updike, the widow of a Mr. Luse. She had a daughter, Nancy J. Luse, now deceased. Matilda Updike was the daughter of James Gilbreath, whose enterprising spirit and ambition brought him from Bonnie Scotland to this country when he was still a young man. He had a reputation in all the country round for his honesty and integrity, and his good business ability. His daughter, Matilda, was born in 1834, and passed away on July 1, 1889.

The farm on which Mr. and Mrs. Updike, Sr., settled in 1861, became their life-long home. Their children, four in number, were William G., the subject of this sketch; Mary Ann, wife of Isaac Shera, of Westport; Frank M., of Butler county, Ohio, and John Reiley, who died, when two years of age, in Franklin county.



The father of this notable family believed that children should be brought up with industrious habits, and practical training, and with the help of his faithful wife, taught them the principles of good farming, as well as their application. Thus it was that the first-born, William, came to love the farm, and made it his home for fifty years. After the death of the senior Updike, the homestead was divided, and one hundred acres became the share of William. These lands he continued to improve until his became one of the most prized farms in the county. As a country home, also, it was most attractive.

On the 20th of December, 1883, Mr. Updike was united in marriage to Louisa Armstrong, daughter of Robert Armstrong, and a sister of F. D. Armstrong. Her birth date was on June 17, 1862, and the place, Sand Creek township. To these parents two children were born, Charles C., the eldest, is now a resident of St. Paul, Indiana, where he teaches in the high school. After graduating from the Letts Corner high school, he studied at the Terre Haute State Normal, showing in all of his work a high grade of scholarship, and a special adaptability to the teaching profession. Charles Updike was born on February 23, 1885, and will graduate at Danville, Indiana, in the class of 1915, and will teach at Milroy, Indiana, and Mabel, who is attending the Westport high school, was born on August 5, 1900.

Farm work is rather strenuous for one in good health, and when there is any impairment of the physical organism, it may become a burden. Finding that his health was not equal to the duties of farm life, Mr. Updike left the country in 1912, and, with his devoted wife and family, took up their residence in a beautiful, modern home in Westport, later selling their farm. Since his removal, Mr. Updike has enjoyed comparative freedom from activity, and has given part, at least, of his time to those pursuits to which his tastes attracted him.

Always interested in whatever would advance the well-being of his home town, Mr. Updike creditably filled the position of township trustee, serving for a term of five years. He then was elected to the office of county commissioner, his term expiring on January 1, 1909. When his official duties were completed, there was general regret, for it was recognized that the affairs of the township and county had been handled in an admirable way, and that his duties had been discharged with honor and efficiency. Mr. Updike is a Republican. Both Mr. and Mrs. Updike are members of the Baptist church, and here as elsewhere, both have been not only nominal members of the organization, but adherents to the faith in reality, for they have contributed in many practical ways to the welfare of the church.

Mrs. Updike, by her devotion to her home and family, has been a real inspiration to the efforts of husband and children, and has had a share in their success. Mr. Updike is a prominent member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and of the Knights of Pythias.

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### W. T. STOTT & COMPANY.

The department store of W. T. Stott & Company is one of the conspicuous places in the business section of Westport, and since its establishment by the honored father of the present owners has added much to the commercial prestige of the town in which it is located. While the careers of both William T. and J. C. have been interesting, they may be better understood by a perusal of the life of their father, the late Capt. William T. Stott, than whom Westport has never had a more enterprising merchant nor a more loyal citizen. As a tradesman he was just, honorable and kind, and as a man his influence transcended the usual limitations, for he was called upon to serve his country, which he did with an honor and bravery well worthy of emulation. William Taylor Stott, Jr., was the second son born to Capt. W. T. Stott and his wife, Caroline Bennett. Captain Stott was born in October, 1840, in Jennings county, and died in August 8, 1912, in Greensburg, having lived a life of signal usefulness. He was the son of Christopher and Elizabeth (Daily) Stott, natives of Kentucky and Virginia, respectively, who early came to Jennings county to make their future home. About the year 1846 they removed to Decatur county, where they began farm life in Sand Creek township. But this was interrupted later by the call to arms which took the young man into many battles, for he enlisted in Company B, Fifty-second Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served for four years, becoming captain of his company. He distinguished himself in many battles and engagements. At the close of the Civil War, Captain Stott engaged in the drug business, continuing until about 1875, his store being in Westport. Then he was appointed deputy internal revenue collector, a position which he filled with credit for a number of years. Elected sheriff of Decatur county in 1896, and re-elected two years later, he served in that capacity until the end of his term, and then bought out the well-known firm of Davis & Littell and took his sons into partnership with him. Captain Stott was by nature a politician, and took great interest in politics, being a Republican and a leader in his party. He

was honest and fair, and an advocate of clean political standards. A member of the Christian church, although he lived a busy life, he found time for worship, and he and his wife brought up their children to respect matters pertaining to religion. An ardent patriot, he was prominent in the Grand Army of the Republic post, of which he not only was commander, but whose offices he filled at various times. He was also a member of the Westport Free and Accepted Masons, joining the Masonic lodge when he was only twenty-one years of age.

Captain Stott's wife, who was before her marriage Caroline Bennett, was his helpmeet and inspiration in all matters of interest to him, and while he was active in the outward world of affairs, she looked after the home and the happiness of her family with devotion and true womanly unselfishness. She was born in 1845 and died in February, 1877. Her birthplace was in Decatur county. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Stott, Sr., were four in number, Charles A. became a farmer and lives in Sand Creek township, one mile south of Westport; the second son was William Taylor, born on May 20, 1870, to whom we shall again refer; Elizabeth is the wife of Jacob Binninger, of Greensburg; James Clarence, November 26, 1875, and was reared in Westport. He, like his father, is a Republican, a member of the Christian church and of the lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. He was married on July 17, 1895, to Mary Elizabeth Brown of Decatur county, and to them were born seven children, namely: Paul T., Christopher, Benjamin H., Gertrude and Gladys, twins, born in 1904, Dorothy and Verd.

Since going into business with their father in 1902, both W. T. and J. C. Stott have put into practice those principles which cannot fail to bring success. Their large department store carries an immense stock of general merchandise to meet the demands of the trade, which has become especially heavy since the store has occupied the two-story brick block into which the goods were placed in 1910.

Much of the success of this firm is due to the energy and ability of its senior member, William T. Stott, who is considered one of the representative business men of Westport. He, like his father, is a man of sterling honesty, fair and just in his business relations, and equally fair and just as a friend. He has identified his interests with those of his native town, and has been one of the leading public-spirited men of the community. He is a Republican, a member of the Christian church and a prominent member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

The ability of the members of the firm of W. T. Stott & Company

has given them a distinctive place in the commercial life of the town in which they were born and reared, and the sons, who are now the owners, by their strict adherence to principle, and by their honorable, upright dealing, have been a decided impetus to the community to which their family has contributed in no small degree.

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### FRANCIS M. ALLISON.

When the family of Francis M. Allison, a well-known and prosperous retired farmer of Adams township, this county, gather about the hospitable board at his pleasant home in the village of St. Paul, there are fifty there assembled. He is the father of thirteen children, all of whom are living, well and strong, and who, with their respective wives and husbands and their children and grandchildren, constitute the even half hundred when gathered with their father, who also is a great-grandfather. This undoubtedly is the largest collective family, all living and in good health, ever reared in Decatur county, a distinction of which Mr. Allison, naturally enough, is quite proud. The mother of these children died in 1908 and since 1911 Mr. Allison has been living somewhat retired in the village of St. Paul, though still giving close attention to the operation of his excellent farm. Both he and his wife were of excellent pioneer stock and their numerous progeny gives assurance to the future that this stock long will persist in this county, to the no small gain of the community at large.

Francis M. Allison was born at old St. Omar, this county, on November 16, 1847, the son of John and Elizabeth (Zeigler) Allison, the former of whom was born in March, 1913, and died in August, 1882, and the latter of whom was born in 1816 and died in December, 1881. John Allison was born in Washington county, Virginia, the son of Matthew Allison, who was born and reared in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, where he married, emigrating thence to Virginia, later going to Knoxville, Tennessee; emigrating from that point in 1822 to Indiana, locating in Orange township, Rush county, on the banks of Big Flatrock. He also owned land over the county line, in Adams township, this county, which he sold in 1834. His wife, who was a Mrs. Cline, died in 1822. Elizabeth Zeigler was born in Butler county, Ohio, the daughter of Peter Zeigler, who came to Decatur county in 1819 or 1820. He first entered land on Michigan road in Washington township. On this tract he built a log cabin and proceeded to clear the timber away. Upon improving this tract he sold the same and then entered



another tract just west of St. Omar, on which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1874. His grandson, James W. Allison, now owns the farm originally entered by Mr. Zeigler in this county in 1821.

John Allison was reared on the paternal farm in Rush county and, upon finishing his schooling, taught school for three years. He bought a farm two miles west of St. Paul, which, in 1861, he sold, moving to the state of Iowa, where he remained until 1866, in which year he returned to Decatur county, locating in the village of St. Paul, where he spent the rest of his life. To his union with Elizabeth Zeigler there were born the following children: Charles, who was killed by an accident at the age of eleven years; Mrs. Salina Courtleyou, who was born on February 24, 1836, lives in Des Moines, Iowa; Francis M., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mrs. Alice McCain, of St. Paul, this county; James W., who lives at Essex, Illinois; Mrs. Jessie Wilson, of St. Paul, this county, and Mrs. May Kurr, also of St. Paul.

Francis M. Allison received his education in the district schools and was reared to the life of the farm. In 1871 he bought a farm of sixty-eight acres in Adams township and in 1874 bought a small farm on Flatrock creek. From 1876 to 1882 he lived on a farm of eighty acres in Orange township, Rush county. In 1881 he bought the old William A. Pearce farm of two hundred and seventeen acres in Adams township, which was entered from the government in 1821, and in 1912 sold this farm to his brother, James W. Allison. For one year he then owned the old Jonathan Paul farm at the edge of the village of St. Paul, which he sold and in September, 1914, bought a farm of two hundred and two and one-half acres on Little Flatrock, which he still owns and which he is operating very successfully, though not occupying, he having made his home in St. Paul since the year 1911.

On October 5, 1870, Francis M. Allison was united in marriage to Mary A. Garrett, who was born in Orange township, Rush county, Indiana, on August 1, 1848, the daughter of Wesley Garrett, who died on December 5, 1908. To this union there were born thirteen children, as follow: Dr. Charles D., a physician of South Bloomington, Illinois, on August 10, 1871, was graduated from Indiana Medical College in 1896, married Mary Mina Apple, of Adams township, this county, and has four children, Nina, Mary, Charles and Caroline; Elizabeth, January 17, 1873, married Albert A. Green, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and has two children, Earl and Helen; Mary, April 4, 1874, married Daniel Apple, a farmer living east of St. Omar, in this county, and has six children, Ethel (who married Livy

Adams), George, Gladys, Charles, Forrest and Caroline; Katy, November 2, 1876, married Otto Owen, of Reddick, Illinois, and has four children, Scott, Russell, Helen and Mary; Myrtle, September 2, 1878, married Otis Doggett; of Adams township; Dr. Francis M., July 13, 1880, a graduate of Indiana Medical College, practicing medicine at Gardner, Illinois, married Mayme Allison and has one child, Francis; Anna, April 27, 1882, married Ernest Tevis, of Adams township and has one child, Francis; Fannie, September 25, 1883, married George Burtscher, of Chicago; Ernest W., who operates the home farm in Adams township, May 23, 1886, married Nellie Shelhorn and has two children, Mabel and Caryl; Dorthy, April 23, 1888, married Cleve Archie, of Mt. Victory, Ohio, and has two children, James Francis and Robert Allison; Ethel, December 2, 1890, married Orba Land, of Adams township, and has one child, Carlos Allison; Bessie, February 17, 1892, married Walter Tonyes, of Richland township, Rush county, and has one child, Mary Elizabeth, and Marguerite, February 8, 1893, who is her father's housekeeper in their pleasant home in St. Paul.

Mr. Allison is a friend of all churches and does his part toward the promotion of the best interests of his community. He is a staunch Democrat, as was his father before him, and is regarded as a leader in the ranks of that party in Jackson township. He was elected township trustee in 1886 and was re-elected in 1888, his service in that connection having been of large benefit to the township. He is active in lodge work, being a member of the Masonic lodge at Waldron; of the Knights of Pythias lodge at St. Paul and of the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Greensburg, in all of which lodges he is very popular, his genial disposition making him friends wherever he goes.

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### JACOB EMMERT.

The conspicuous success which has come to the venerable Jacob Emmert, a retired farmer and miller of Clarksburg, Indiana, is by no means a matter of accident, since he has from the beginning of his career approached the problems of the farm and the problems of the milling business with the scientific insight of one who knows that the smaller the cost of operation the larger the profit. His methodical precision in mastering the details of business seems to have been a natural endowment. Personal successes frequently can be explained on no other hypothesis than that the

individual is possessed of a superior ability. It is not difficult to explain the success of those men who were favored by inheritance or accidental good fortune, but Jacob Emmert does not belong to this class of successful men, since he came to Clarksburg as a poor man and has become a wealthy citizen by his own individual and personal effort.

Jacob Emmert was born seventy-six years ago, on April 19, 1839, in Bavaria, Germany, the son of Christopher and Elizabeth Emmert, who seven years after the birth of Jacob came to America and located on a farm in the state of Maryland. From Maryland they removed to Wilmington, Delaware, where Christopher worked in a mill. Eight years after coming to America they removed to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and the father, who worked in a flour-mill, died in that city. Although this part of Jacob Emmert's career may appear uneventful to the superficial observer, nevertheless it probably was the most eventful period of his life, since about this time he was learning the business in which he was to become so prominent in later life. One of a family of eight children, it is quite natural that Jacob had to begin to shift for himself at an early age. Three of his brothers, Peter, John and Fred, and his two sisters, Elizabeth and Catherine, are deceased. He has one living brother, Philip, who has been a merchant in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, for sixty years.

Leaving home at the age of sixteen years, in 1855, Mr. Emmert first operated a mill at Harrison, Ohio, for two years, and during the succeeding two years was engaged in operating another mill two miles north of Elizabethtown, Ohio. This was a water-mill. During the first two months of 1859 he was engaged in operating a steam-mill at Guilford, and for a short time later was at Greensburg. From Greensburg he removed to Dearborn county, and there operated a water-mill for John Emmert at Dillsboro for two years. In 1862 Mr. Emmert went to Fairland in Shelby county, Indiana, and was engaged in the milling business there for two years, when he returned to Greensburg, where he remained until the fall of 1869, at that time purchasing a mill which had been owned by a company of men who had failed. Purchasing the plant at an assignee's sale, for nearly fifty years he has been engaged in manufacturing flour, grinding grain and sawing lumber. The mill, which is operated for custom and local trade, is now run by Mr. Emmert's son, Clinton Buell Emmert. It is equipped with all the latest machinery and operated by a gas engine at a cost of five cents an hour. The roller processes are employed, and two well-known local brands of flour, the "White Loaf" and "Blue Ribbon," are manufactured.

When Jacob Emmert came to Clarksburg he first purchased sixty-five acres of land for which he went into debt. Later he purchased one hundred and forty acres for credit and subsequently eighty acres additional. He now has one of the most fertile farms in Decatur county, and by crop rotation and intelligent farming he has developed the land to a very high state of productivity. Practically all of the land was very much run down at the time he purchased it. The previous owners had grown great quantities of corn year after year and had robbed the land of its fertility. By farming the land systematically and rotating his crops, Mr. Emmert has had a splendid success. He followed a three-year rotation plan until the wheat grew so tall that it was necessary to raise corn two years in succession. Land which had grown thirty-five to forty bushels of corn to the acre, and yielded fifteen bushels of wheat to the acre, under Mr. Emmert's care and management now produces from sixty to eighty bushels of corn to the acre and from twenty to thirty bushels of wheat. At the present time he has two hundred and sixty-four acres of land which is operated for the most part by his son, John Leslie. The farm is equipped and well supplied with all necessary outbuildings. In 1913 he fed sixty-nine head of cattle and two hundred head of hogs. He also sold fifty-four head of mules in the home market and sold his cattle in Buffalo, New York. At the present time he has forty-four head of cattle, sixteen head of young mules and one hundred and fifty head of hogs. Mr. Emmert's neighbors, who have followed his methods in farming, have all prospered, and many owe much of their success to the example he has set in this community.

On November 27, 1861, Jacob Emmert was married in Greensburg to Catherine Hauk, the daughter of William and Margaret Hauk. Born on October 3, 1841, Mrs. Emmert passed away in 1901, leaving a family of six children, five of whom are living. Of these children, Carrie is the wife of Luther D. Hamilton and was born on October 12, 1862; Clinton Buell, who is now engaged in operating the Emmert mill, was born on July 14, 1864, and on May 17, 1893, he was married to Allie Patterson; they have one child, James Allen, who is a student at the Sweetwater military school; Mrs. Sylvia Senior, April 12, 1867, has one child, Merlin; Ellison, March 8, 1869, died on December 17, 1888; John Leslie, April 30, 1871, was married on November 27, 1895, to Ada Thornton Dobyns, and they have one child, Mabel, and Ruby Leona, September 18, 1886, lives at home and is keeping house for her father.

Jacob Emmert has been a life-long Republican. Four years, from 1888 to 1892, he served as trustee of Fugit township. A member of the



Presbyterian church, he has filled all the offices in the local congregation. Fraternally he is a member of Clarksburg Lodge No. 124, Free and Accepted Masons. He became a Mason at Fairland in Shelby county, fifty-three years ago, transferring his membership from Fairland to Greensburg and from thence to Clarksburg. For ten years he served as treasurer of the Clarksburg lodge.

Decatur county has few citizens who have been more industrious and more enterprising than the venerable Jacob Emmert. His acquaintance extends not only throughout Decatur county, but he is well known in all of the adjoining counties, and occupies an enviable place in the hearts of his neighbors and fellow townsmen. While he has lived an industrious and honest man, he has in many ways contributed to the happiness and comfort of the people with whom he has come in contact and is honored by them today as a kind and generous friend.

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#### WILLIAM M. ANGLE.

In Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, where the venerable William Angle has lived for nearly sixty years, or since he was sixteen years old, he is known far and wide for his unaided and heroic struggle for personal success. It is natural that he should be well known in this township on account of his long residence, but he is especially well known on account of the large measure of success which fortune has visited on his efforts. Every one who is at all familiar with history knows that money is far easier to obtain now than it was a half century ago. Most every one knows further, that not one young man in fifty has a thousand dollars which he himself earned and saved at the time of reaching his majority. Yet, the venerable William Angle, who attained his majority early in 1861, had by that time saved out of his own earnings fifteen hundred dollars, which he had given to his father. No one is able to say that William M. Angle has neglected his personal or immediate duties in his race for a fortune. Before his career as a farmer and financier had really begun he not only made a handsome gift of his earnings to his father, but he had cared for him in his declining years, when he was compelled to lean upon the stronger shoulders of his son, and, at his death, had paid all of the bills incurred during his last and fatal illness. More than anything else, this noble act proved what manner of man William M. Angle is. It shows that the successes of his

career were founded upon a just and fair realization of his nearest and dearest duties. It is no wonder, therefore, that he occupies a position among his neighbors and fellow citizens as a man who has worthily discharged his obligations in all the responsible relations of life.

The venerable William M. Angle, retired farmer of Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, is a native of Laurel, Kentucky, having been born seventy-five years ago in February, 1840. His parents, William and Eby (Sutherlin) Angle, were both natives of southern states, the former of Tennessee and the latter of Kentucky. Believing that they would find greater opportunities in the newer land north of them, they emigrated in 1856 to Indiana and settled east of Clarksburg, where they lived until their deaths. Several of their fourteen children died in infancy, leaving only eight who accompanied them to Indiana. Of these eight children, William, the subject of this sketch, and his sister, Priscilla, of Fairmount, Indiana, are now the only ones living.

In the first three years of the last half of the nineteenth century, agricultural conditions did not compare with conditions today, especially from the standpoint of getting quick returns for one's labor. Nevertheless, William Angle, who began life on his own account when twenty years of age, rented land in Decatur county, and saved most of the money left after the expenses of farming were paid. During this period of his life he found it a pleasant task to care for his aged father and in giving his father fifteen hundred dollars which he earned before he was twenty-one years old.

In 1870, when he was thirty years old, Mr. Angle purchased his first tract of land, paying one thousand dollars in cash and agreeing to pay twenty-eight hundred dollars additional as fast as he was able to make and save the money. In eight years he was able completely to relinquish the debt, so that by 1878 he was well started on the road to fortune. In February, 1909, he purchased a ninety-five-acre farm in Rush county, paying nine thousand dollars in cash for this land. His home farm in Fugit township consists of fifty-three acres, so that he owns altogether one hundred and forty-nine acres in Decatur and Rush counties. Aside from this land, which is conservatively estimated to be worth fifteen thousand dollars, Mr. Angle owns five thousand dollars' worth of stocks and bonds, which are gilt-edge in every respect and which pay him handsome dividends and interest. It is fair to say that he is today worth not less than twenty thousand dollars, every cent of which he has made himself, and saved out of his own personal earnings. This is a splendid record and one of which he has every

reason to be proud. In fact, his neighbors in Fugit township and the people with whom he has come in contact during life are likewise proud of him and his achievements.

On March 17, 1875, when he was thirty-five years old, William Angle was married to Mary Ann Evans, who was born on December 9, 1845, and who is five years his junior. Mrs. Angle is a native of Franklin county and the daughter of James Evans, who married Lydia Weston. They also were natives of Franklin county, and the son and daughter of old families of this section of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Angle have no children.

It could hardly be expected that William Angle, in view of his large success as a farmer and financier, and in view of his busy life, has ever been able to devote very much time to political affairs. However, he is a Republican in politics, but contents himself with voting the ticket of his party and leaving such matters as organization and the management of campaigns to others. Mr. and Mrs. Angle have long been members of the Presbyterian church, and are devout in this faith.

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#### THOMAS N. SHAW.

Retirement from business does not necessarily indicate an inactive life. It often means that the mind released from strenuous business cares can turn its attention to other matters equally worth while, and often more important to the public good than the amassing of wealth. To be a representative farmer among other successful farmers, a man must possess many forceful traits of character, and the fact that he begins life as the son of a wealthy landowner does not, as in the present case, detract one iota from the credit due him as a financier. In these days of sharp competition, it is quite as difficult to retain a fortune as to make it, and therefore, while Thomas N. Shaw may be considered more than ordinarily fortunate, it would seem, nevertheless, that commendation is due. Nor has he been unmindful of the needs of others. Thomas N. Shaw, retired farmer of Westport, was born on January 6, 1855, in Jackson township.

Mr. Shaw's father, whose name also was Thomas, was brought up by his grandfather, for his own father died when the younger Thomas was an infant. The latter, who was Thomas N. Shaw's paternal grandfather, was born on December 3, 1789, and his wife, Sarah Shaw, was born on October 5, 1792. Their children were as follow: Elizabeth C., born on July 15,

1814; John, February 23, 1816; Sarah, December 1, 1817, and others, including Thomas, the father of Thomas N. The birth of the latter occurred on July 3, 1821, and he passed away in 1905. He was a native of Franklin county, going to Decatur county when only a young boy. In early manhood, he married Margaret Ann Wilson, who was a native of Indiana, and died in November, 1904. Thomas Shaw, Sr., was the owner of a splendid farm in Jackson township, consisting of three hundred and eighty acres, and of one hundred and eighty acres in Sand Creek township, and was one of the large landowners of the entire county. Thomas N. Shaw had two brothers and two sisters, as follow: John S., who lives in Greensburg; Martha E. Swope, of Fowler, Indiana; Samuel S., deceased, was a farmer, and Mary E. McInwain, also dead. Thomas N. Shaw, Jr., was the youngest of his family.

His boyhood home was at the northeast corner of the home section of Jackson township, while his own farm is in the southwest corner of the same section. In July, 1875, he was united in marriage to Louisa, daughter of Eli and Catherine Risley Bake, a wealthy landowner of Decatur county. Besides Mrs. Shaw, their other children are, Lewis S., Amanda J., Clarissa, Cordelia, Olive P., Lorinda, Martha A., William H., Pearl, wife of Dr. Will E. Thomas, of Clarksburg, who became the parents of two children, Richard Shaw and Mary Louise.

Upon their marriage, the father of Mr. Shaw presented him with one thousand dollars, and his wife received a similar amount from her parents, and with this they purchased the land upon which they lived until 1912. The original tract consisted of ninety acres to which they later added seventy acres, which farm is so well equipped in every way that it easily attracts the attention of travelers, and is considered one of the finest in the county. It now contains a splendid house, which they built in 1884, although when the young people first moved in, they occupied a one-room log cabin. It was necessary to go in debt, but that encumbrance has long ago been paid off. A large, two-story brick house replaces the primitive log cabin, and a spacious barn is modern in every respect. In 1912, the owner added to its attractiveness as well as to its intrinsic value by enclosing the grounds, within four hundred rods, with wire fencing, braced by substantial stone posts. In this year, also, the family removed to Westport, desiring this progressive little town as a place of residence.

Mr. Shaw has always been interested in the affairs of the Republican party of which he has been a life-long member. He and his wife and



daughter have a great many friends, and theirs is considered one of the important and hospitable home of the community.

Relieved from active participation in the arduous labors of farm work, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw can enjoy a leisure deserved by reason of their years of service to their family, and it is hoped by their many friends that many more years will be spared to them, years that may be fruitful in both pleasure and achievement.

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### DANIEL JEFFERSON BALLARD, M. D.

For many years a practicing physician in the pleasant village of St. Paul, Decatur county, an honored veteran of the Civil War, active in church and lodge circles and a leader in the fast diminishing ranks of the Grand Army of the Republic in this part of the state, there are few men in this county who have a wider acquaintance or better friends than the venerable Doctor Ballard, whose name the reader notes above. Of fine old pioneer stock, Doctor Ballard ever has sought to maintain the best traditions of his sterling ancestry, and has been for many years regarded as a leader in that section of the county in which he has lived since boyhood. Doctor Ballard's wife, who is a daughter of the oldest man in Adams township, also is of stalwart pioneer stock and has been a most efficient factor in the development of the best interests of her home town. For many years she has been a registered pharmacist and has assisted her husband in the operation of a drug store at St. Paul. Previous to taking up pharmacy, Mrs. Ballard had been a school teacher, and in that capacity her influence was such as to leave a lasting impression upon the cultural life of her home vicinity.

Daniel Jefferson Ballard, M. D., was born on a farm in Orange township, Rush county, Indiana, not far over the line from Decatur county, on October 8, 1841, the son of Madison and Sarah Ann (Tevis) Ballard, the former of whom was born on March 13, 1814, and died on March 15, 1888, and the latter of whom was born on February 25, 1822, and died on January 18, 1883.

Madison Ballard was born in Virginia, the son of Elijah Ballard, born in 1777, who came to Indiana in 1825, settling in Rush county, where he spent the remainder of his life. Madison Ballard became a well-known and influential farmer in Rush county, where he made his home until 1877, in which year he moved to St. Paul, this county, where his last days were spent. By his marriage to Sarah Ann Tevis six children were born, Daniel

J., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Catherine Raynes, who lives in Illinois; John Durbin, who lives in Shelbyville, this state, and Mary Elizabeth. Sarah Helen and Mellender, the last three named of whom are deceased.

Being the eldest of the family and it being necessary for him to aid in the work of the farm during the days of his youth, Daniel J. Ballard received little schooling in his boyhood, his attendance being limited to about three months in a year during the winter seasons. He was not twenty years of age when the Civil War broke out, but on September 18, 1861, he enlisted in Company E, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for service in that great struggle between the states. In 1862 he was transferred to the First Battalion, Pioneer Brigade of Engineers, in which service he was engaged for two years, and was discharged with his regiment on October 26, 1864. Though engaged in some of the fiercest battles of the war, Doctor Ballard never was wounded, though on numerous occasions bullets passed through his clothing. Among the notable battles in which he participated may be mentioned Stone's River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta and Jonesboro. Doctor Ballard was discharged with the rank of corporal.

At the close of the war Doctor Ballard determined to pursue the studies which he had been compelled to neglect in his boyhood, and he attended school at St. Paul and at Shelbyville, after which for a few years he taught school in St. Paul, beginning as primary teacher and ending as principal. Thus fortified, he took up the study of medicine and, after a period of preparatory reading, entered the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, from which institution he was graduated in February, 1876. He immediately entered upon the practice of his profession in the village of St. Paul and for forty years has been thus engaged, during the past twenty-one years of which time he also operated a drug store in the village.

On September 18, 1867, Doctor Ballard was united in marriage to Anna E. French, who was born in Liberty township, Shelby county, this state, on February 15, 1846, daughter of Joseph R. French, a native of that county, who was born in 1825, the son of Daniel French, who settled in Shelby county in 1820. Joseph R. French enjoys the distinction of being the oldest citizen of Adams township, this county. Since 1856 he has resided in the village of St. Paul, having always lived in the neighborhood, with the exception of four years spent at Moores Hill, when his son was attending the college at that point. Mr. French was a saddler during his active year, and in his old age turned his attention to the cultivation of

raspberry slips and other hothouse plants, but is now retired. Mr. French's wife was Catherine Zeigler, a member of a pioneer family of this part of the state, who was born in 1824 and died in November, 1902. To their union five children were born, namely: Anna E., who married Doctor Ballard; Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Plymate, who lives at Acton, this state; Mrs. Amy Celeste Derbyshire, of St. Petersburg, Florida; Harriet Jane, who died in girlhood, and William Henry Harrison.

Anna E. French began teaching school when she was thirteen years of age and taught until she was twenty years of age, at which time, following her marriage to Doctor Ballard, she took up the study of chemistry, with particular reference to pharmacy, and for twenty years has been a registered pharmacist, being an invaluable aid to her husband in the operation of the drug store at St. Paul.

To Dr. Daniel J. and Anna E. (French) Ballard three children have been born, only one of whom is living, namely: Harry W., an artist, who resides in St. Paul, married Fannie Floyd and they have one child, a son, Jack Floyd; Daniel Arthur, who died on April 10, 1879, at the age of two years and five months, and Joseph Clarence, who died in a St. Louis hospital on March 2, 1902, at the age of twenty-three years, three months and twenty-seven days. Joseph C. Ballard was graduated from Purdue University and at the time of his death was engaged as a chemist in a steel plant at St. Louis.

Doctor and Mrs. Ballard are members of the Methodist church and are active in the good works of the community in which they so long have labored. Doctor Ballard was a Republican until the year 1912, in which year he transferred his political allegiance to the Progressive party. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias lodges at St. Paul and a leader in the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Formerly he took an active part in the affairs of the medical associations to which he was attached, but of late years is gradually relaxing some of his aforetime activities. He was a member of the Decatur County Medical Association and the Indiana State Medical Association, in the affairs of both of which societies he took an earnest interest. Mrs. Ballard also formerly was active in the work of the Pythian Sisters and of the Daughters of Rebekah, having filled all the chairs in the local lodges of those orders and served as delegate to the grand lodges of the same. Doctor and Mrs. Ballard, by reason of their useful lives in and about St. Paul, are held in the highest esteem thereabouts, being regarded with the greatest respect by the entire community.

## CYRUS D. HARWOOD.

Cyrus D. Harwood, for fourteen years secretary and treasurer of the St. Paul Gas Company, was born on May 20, 1860, in Dearborn county, Indiana, the son of Ebenezer and Caroline (Sumpter) Harwood, the former of whom was a native of Dearborn county. He and his wife were successful farmers in that county.

Cyrus D. Harwood, who died on August 15, 1913, came to Decatur county when a small lad, probably five or six years old. They settled in Shelby county for a short time and then moved to Adams township, Decatur county, settling near St. Omer.

In 1863 Ebenezer Harwood enlisted in the Union army and served until June 27, 1864, when he died at Knoxville, Tennessee. He was a brave and efficient soldier, and was one among the thousands of patriotic citizens who gave up their lives in the cause of human freedom. At his death he left a wife and five children, the names of four of whom are herewith given, Mrs. Susan Pope, of Milford; Mrs. Mary Wilson, of Milford; Thomas, of Illinois; James of Bloomfield, Missouri; and Cyrus D., the subject of this sketch.

The late Cyrus D. Harwood grew to manhood at St. Omer and when about fifteen years of age his mother married again, after which time Cyrus D. went to Illinois, where he took a position with a mining company, which he held for several years. He became postmaster at Bartly, Illinois, and for some three or four years was engaged in the mercantile business at that town.

About 1887 Mr. Harwood, after a trip west made in order to regain his health, came back to Decatur county and was married to Julia Short, March 29, 1888, a daughter of Joseph and Nancy (Gulley) Short, the former of whom was born on Flatrock river, Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, and where he lived until his death on February 26, 1911. Nancy (Gulley) Short was born in Shelby county and came to Decatur county when a child and lived here all of her life, where her father was a farmer. Her father and mother died within three weeks of each other, the mother on February 5, 1911, and the father on February 26, 1911. Her father was a Republican and a member of the Baptist church. During the Civil War he was a corporal in Company D, Seventy-sixth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, a patriotic citizen and a man popular in the neighborhood where he lived.



After his marriage Cyrus D. Harwood entered business at St. Omer, but a short time after that they moved to St. Paul, where he engaged in business. During a period of about fourteen years he was secretary and treasurer of the St. Paul Gas Company. He was also a notary public and a man of unusual ability, possessed of a genial disposition, and had many friends in this county. He took a great interest in public improvements, and especially in the improvement of his own town, where Mrs. Harwood, his widow, lives at her home with her adopted daughter, Zelman, who is now a student in high school. Mrs. Harwood, who is a strong believer in education, is trying to give her adopted daughter the very best educational advantages. Mrs. Harwood taught school for six years previous to her marriage and is a cultured and refined woman. She has a wide circle of friends in Adams township.

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#### MORGAN L. MIERS.

Emerson, in his great essay on Character, recalls the indignation of an eloquent Methodist at the kind admonition of a Doctor of Divinity—"My friend, a man can neither be praised nor insulted," and, indeed, in this age when the superlative is shrieking throughout the land, it would seem that even the common acceptance of the term praise had outworn its wonted use, for everything whose praises the promoters are shouting from the house-tops is either the greatest this or the greatest that that ever was. What with "the puff direct and the puff collateral and the puff oblique" of the old time magnified by the megaphonic methods of the modern advertiser, praise—if, despite the eloquent Methodist whom Emerson cites, praise be possible—has overshot itself. When everything has become alike superlative, there are no superlatives and the promoter's adjectives are regarded askance by those whose ears are assaulted by the tumult of his cries. However, there is such a thing as proper and due praise, the modest meed that merit claims, and it surely is not ill-timed or unfitting that on such a page as this a few words be said in passing regarding the life and the personality of Morgan L. Miers, one of the most influential men in Decatur county, the owner of fourteen hundred acres of land in Clay township and president of the Third National Bank at Greensburg, than whom no man in the county is more widely known or regarded with higher favor by his neighbors. Mr. Miers is a man of quiet, unassuming manner, of genial disposition and a philosophic turn of mind; qualities which bind his friends to him as "with hoops of

steel," and it properly may be said that no man in this part of the state has firmer or more devoted friends than he. Mr. Miers' grandfather, Thomas Miers, was one of the early settlers of Decatur county and for three generations members of the Miers family have been prominent in the affairs of this county, their influence ever having been exerted in behalf of the welfare of the whole community. A brother of Mr. Miers, the Hon. Robert W. Miers, of Bloomington, this state, represented this district in Congress for eight years and in all ways the family has stood for good government and decent living; being faithful and true in all the relations of life.

Morgan L. Miers was born in the year 1855 on the farm on which he now lives, one and one-half miles south of the pleasant village of Burney, in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Thomas S. and Mahala (Braden) Miers, both members of pioneer families in that section of the county. Thomas S. Miers came to this county when about seven years of age with his parents, his father, Thomas Miers, emigrating from Ohio at an early day in the settlement of this county and entering from the government a tract of land in the Burney neighborhood, in Clay township, where the rest of his life was spent, his death occurring not many years after he came to this county. Thomas S. Miers was reared in the pioneer home in Clay township and upon succeeding to the ownership of the farm prospered largely, gradually increasing his holdings until he became the possessor of more than six hundred acres of fine land, the larger part of which he had brought under an excellent state of cultivation. Though laboring under the many and manifest disadvantages of his day and generation, Thomas S. Miers displayed much executive ability and a keen business foresight, becoming one of the foremost factors in the development of that part of the county in which he lived. He was a farmer of unusual skill and his farm became very profitable to him, his chief source of revenue being derived from feeding hogs, he finding that the value of the extensive crops of corn that he raised was thus largely enhanced. Thomas S. Miers was a member of the Episcopal church, a Democrat and a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford. He was active in the good works of his community, influential in local politics and interested in the affairs of his lodge. Of a singularly optimistic nature, he radiated cheer wherever he went and was exceedingly popular throughout that part of the county. Ever ready to help others, he never forgot a kindness directed toward himself and it is said of him that he would go as far as anyone to accommodate a friend.

Thomas S. Miers married Mahala Braden, a member of one of the pioneer families of the county, and to this union there were born seven children,

namely: Mary, who married Isaac Sefton, of Greensburg, this county; Robert W., of Bloomington, Indiana, former member of Congress from this district, now judge of the Monroe county circuit court; Mrs. Emma Gilmore, deceased; Morgan L., the immediate subject of this sketch; Willard A., a well-known farmer of the Burney neighborhood, who owns three hundred and twenty acres of choice land in Clay township, is a well-known breeder of fine horses, having some time ago sold one of his trotters, "Little Snapp," for twenty-five hundred dollars; Nevada, wife of William A. Minor, of Clay township, and Maggie B., who married Frank Stapp and lives at Hope, Indiana.

Morgan L. Miers was reared on the home farm in Clay township, receiving his elementary education in the local schools, which he supplemented by a course of four years at Indiana University and was graduated from the law department of that excellent institution. Upon completing his education he devoted his time to the development of the growing farm interests of his father, giving his particular attention to the raising of live stock, soon becoming known as one of the heaviest shippers in the state. Recognizing the growing value of land in the neighborhood of the home acres he gradually bought land as he prospered and now owns fourteen hundred and sixty acres of choice land, all of which lies in Clay township. Much of this land, purchased for fifty dollars an acre, is now well worth one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre, and Mr. Miers maintains that if he had had the acumen to have extended his purchases during the days of cheap land thereabout he now would be a millionaire. However, he is a man of remarkably optimistic nature, as was his father before him, and he is not worrying because of this lack of foresight years ago. In fact, he makes it a point never to worry, his genial temperament placing him above the petty worries that sometimes afflict less optimistic individuals. Though giving his chief attention to his great estate, Mr. Miers has found time to extend his activities in other directions and is interested in numerous enterprises in this and adjoining counties. Since the opening of the Third National Bank of Greensburg, thirty-four years ago, Mr. Miers has been a director in that sound old financial institution and for the past two years has been president of the same; a position of prominence in the financial circles of southern Indiana exceeded by few therein. His sound judgment regarding values and thorough acquaintance with commercial and industrial conditions in this part of the state give to his opinions in connection with investments a weight of well nigh dominant force hereabouts and few financiers in southern Indiana have a higher standing in banking circles than

he; his enterprising spirit being sufficiently well balanced by a native conservatism to give to his decisions that unerring quality which business men in this section have learned to appreciate and value so highly in consultations regarding investments.

Thirty-three years ago Morgan L. Miers was united in marriage to Gail Hamilton, of Clay township, this county, daughter of G. M. and Mary Susan (Logan) Hamilton, members of pioneer families in Decatur county, the latter of whom was a daughter of John Logan, and to this union two children were born, a son and a daughter, Roy, now twenty-three years of age, and Mary, now aged sixteen, the latter of whom is attending school in Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. Miers met her death in an automobile accident on October 20, 1914, a tragedy which plunged the entire community into mourning, for she was a woman of exceptional strength of character and for years a leader in good works in the vicinity in which her gentle influence so long had been exerted in all good ways.

Mr. Miers is a member of the Methodist church and he and his son, Roy Miers, are members of the Masonic fraternity. Mr. Miers is a Democrat and takes an earnest interest in the political affairs of the county, state and nation, though he never has been included in the office-seeking class, his extensive personal interests being sufficient to engage his undivided attention. He is a constant exponent of good government and all measures looking to the advancement of the public welfare find in him an ardent champion. Energetic and public spirited, Mr. Miers is a powerful factor in general affairs hereabout and no man in the county is held in higher esteem.

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#### GEORGE M. MEEK.

Of the private soldiers who belonged to the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, recruited during the latter months of 1861, no one living or dead had a more valiant record in the service of his country than the venerable George M. Meek, a well-known farmer of Fugit township. Having enlisted on September 13, 1861, in Company G, which was for two years commanded by his brother, Capt. John Meek, and under him Lieut. Orville Thomson, he served altogether three years. In the battle of the Wilderness he was wounded by a shot through the right breast, a wound which has bothered him all of his life. Few soldiers participated in a greater number of severe battles than George M. Meek, who fought at



Greenbrier, Winchester, Port Republic, the second battle of Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Slaughter Mountain, Virginia, and in the Wilderness campaign. After serving in every battle in which his company and regiment was engaged, he was mustered out of the service on September 20, 1864, full of honors yet weighted with the terrible burden of military service and disabled by the ghastly wound he had received in the Wilderness.

The venerable George M. Meek, who was only eighteen years old at the time of his enlistment, was born on May 3, 1842, three miles northeast of Greensburg, the son of Adam R. and Nancy (Logan) Meek. Adam R. Meek, a native of Kentucky, was the son of Thomas Meek, and came to Decatur county in 1825, just after the settlement was beginning in this section. He was twice married. Among his eighteen children were Taylor, of Greensburg; John, of Kansas; Mrs. Jerusha Patton, of California; Mrs. Mollie Donnell, of Missouri; Samuel; Mrs. Minerva Bonner; Tirza McIlvane;; Mrs. Rebecca Henry; William N., deceased; Thomas; Mrs. Laura Kincaid, deceased, and Josiah, deceased.

After becoming one of the largest landowners in Decatur county, Adam R. Meek divided his land among his children, presenting each child with eighty acres in fee simple.

George M. Meek, who now owns three hundred and thirty acres of land in Fugit township, settled, after his marriage, on the eighty-acre farm given to him by his father. After his marriage, he purchased the old Logan or Patton farm and in 1887 built his present farm home. A few years ago he also built a home for his son.

On November 26, 1883, Mr. Meek was married to Charlotte Miller, who was born on November 28, 1860, at Clarksburg, and who is the daughter of Louis C. and Elizabeth (Barneman) Miller, natives of Ohio and Germany, respectively. They were married in Ohio and moved from that state to Decatur county in 1857. Mr. and Mrs. George M. Meek have had three children, the youngest of whom died in infancy. The two living children are Thomas, a well-known farmer of this county, who married Daisy Carroll, and Mrs. Fredericka Smith, who lives near Williamstown on a farm and who has one child, Carmen.

As a farmer Mr. Meek feeds a large amount of live stock, and it is principally from live stock that he has made his greatest profits in farming. During his twenty-nine years of experience in the business of farming he has made a close and careful study of its methods, and few men living in Decatur county today are better informed regarding its various phases than

he. Mr. Meek understands first the cultivation of the soil; he recognizes the importance of good seed and the preparation of a good seed bed. Moreover, he believes in frequent and careful cultivation. He is not a man who sells a great deal of grain, practically everything raised on the farm in the way of grains or cereals being fed to the stock.

The venerable George M. Meek comes from a distinguished family and one which has been intimately identified with the history of the county since pioneer times. If nothing more, his valiant service as a soldier in our great Civil War would be sufficient to entitle him to rank as one of the foremost citizens. But as a careful, enterprising, thrifty farmer, he is quite as much a hero of peace as he was a hero of war.

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### JOHN H. LOGAN.

John H. Logan, a successful farmer and breeder of Fugit township, who passed away in Oklahoma, where he had gone to recover his health, on March 28, 1908, was one of the best-known citizens living in this part of Decatur county.

The son of Joseph A. and Mary Jane (Straney) Logan, John H. Logan was born on November 8, 1849, on the farm where he spent the most of his life. He was the son of Joseph A. Logan, as heretofore noted, who was born on January 9, 1821, and who married Mary Jane Straney, a native of Kentucky. Joseph A. was the son of Martin Logan, a pioneer in Fugit township, and a native of Kentucky. He married Nancy Martin and died in 1888. Joseph A. Logan entered the land where Ezra Kirby now lives in 1821. His father filed the papers for this farm, which afterward passed into the possession of his son, Hugh, and is now owned by Ezra Kirby. Mrs. Mary Jane (Straney) Logan, who was born on May 12, 1824, was the daughter of Jane Brown, who was born on December 27, 1748, and who had also two other children, John Brown Straney, born on November 9, 1825, and Sarah Agnes Straney (Mayne), August 20, 1827.

Joseph A. Logan was only nine months old when his father removed from Kentucky to Decatur county, Indiana, and settled on the old homestead, where the widow of his son, John H., now lives. He and his wife had eight children. Of these children, Nancy Martin was born on March 9, 1844, married a Mr. May, now deceased; Mrs. Mary Ann Cook, October 14, 1845; Mrs. Margaret (Findley) Manlove, August 13, 1847; John

H., is the subject of this sketch; Leander, February 9, 1853, deceased; William R., August 20, 1855, deceased; Nathan McDill Logan, September 27, 1857, and lives in Fugit township, Luna Ames, October 23, 1865, died on January 3, 1891.

After his marriage the late John H. Logan and his wife purchased the old homestead, consisting of one hundred and nineteen acres, and later bought sixty-six acres more, making in all one hundred and eighty-five acres. Upon this farm they erected a splendid modern home in 1900, and from time to time excellent outbuildings. He was a large stock raiser and feeder, and made a specialty of road horses with which he was very successful. In 1908 Mr. Logan went to Oklahoma for the purpose of regaining his health, which was fast failing, and died six years afterward. At the time of his death he not only left to his widow and heirs the farm in Fugit township, but also a farm where he lived at the time of his death of one hundred and fifty acres southwest of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. An energetic and honorable citizen, a good business man and farmer, he was also a splendid type of the man who practices the Christianity which he professes. If John H. Logan had any enemies at the time of his death, he did not know about it, since he lived according to the Golden Rule, and never had trouble with anybody. A Republican in politics, he was a loyal and devoted member of the Springhill United Presbyterian church.

On October 10, 1888, the late John H. Logan had been married to Jennie Carson, who was born on September 26, 1865, in Tipton county, Indiana, and who is the daughter of John and Helen (Picken) Carson, natives of Brown county, Ohio, and Scotland, respectively. The former was the son of Irish parents, and died in Tipton county in 1884. His wife died later in Indianapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Logan had four children. Of these children, Harry Carson, born on June 22, 1890, was educated in the Clarksburg high school, and after leaving high school, spent two years in a military school in Tennessee; Ruth, December 11, 1891, is a student at the Bradley Institute at Peoria, Illinois, having taught school for two years; Jessie, December 22, 1893, was a student in the Bradley Institute until her graduation in 1915, and William, April 2, 1902, is attending the Clarksburg school.

At the death of her beloved husband, Mrs. John H. Logan was left well provided for, and out of their combined earnings and savings she may enjoy all the comforts of life, and the conveniences which her beloved husband meant her to have. His memory is revered not only by the widow and children he left here, but by the host of friends he gained during a long and active life in this county.

## WALTER T. BOLING.

Among the enterprising business men of St. Paul, Decatur county, Indiana, may be mentioned Walter T. Boling, the proprietor of a feed and grain business at that place. Born in 1887, in Franklin county, Indiana, he is the son of William and Hannah (Humphrey) Boling, the former of whom was born in 1828 and died in 1899. Hannah Humphrey was the second wife of William Boling, the first wife having been a Miss Sloan, who bore him one child, Josephine, now deceased. By his second marriage there were twelve children, of whom Alice, the eldest and Jasper, the fifth born, are deceased. Mrs. Alice Wheeler died in February, 1914, at her home in Laurel. The living children are, Mrs. Martha Jane Carr, of Frankfort; Mary, who is the housekeeper for George Logan, of Clay township; Albert, who is the treasurer of Decatur county; Mrs. Ada Wright, the wife of Wilbur Wright, of Adams; George W., who is engaged in the hardware business in St. Paul; W. T., the subject of this sketch; Clyde, Elmer, Owen and Edna, all of whom reside in Indianapolis.

Walter T. Boling, after spending his boyhood days on the farm, and receiving his education in the common schools of the county, left home at the age of seventeen and afterward worked on a farm in Decatur county until 1901, when he came to St. Paul and was employed in the grain elevator of William Nading, for whom he worked for six years. At the end of this period, he purchased an interest in the St. Paul Hardware Company, where he remained for three years. Later he sold out and purchased his present business in which he has been engaged ever since. Mr. Boling handles and sells many thousands of bushels of corn each year as well as all kinds of feed and flour. He has been successful in business and now owns the mill and building. At the present time he is building a strictly modern up-to-date home in St. Paul and is spending in the neighborhood of two thousand dollars in its construction.

In October, 1904, Mr. Boling was married to Gertrude M. Wynkoop, of Sand Creek township, the daughter of Isaac Newton and Mary Elizabeth (McGee) Wynkoop, the former of whom was born on February 24, 1850, in Franklin county, Indiana, the son of James and Barbara (Herrick) Wynkoop, and the latter born on April 8, 1854, in Sand Creek township, two and one-half miles from her present home, the daughter of Ralph and Sarah (Jones) McGee, the former of whom was born on January 8, 1827, and the latter born on April 12, 1832. Ralph McGee died on June 20, 1909, and his wife on February 3, 1906. Ralph McGee was the son



of John McGee, a native of Ireland, who came to Butler county, Ohio, in 1810, and who was a soldier in the War of 1812. He married Jane Cassell. Mrs. Boling's paternal grandparents, James and Barbara (Herrick) Wynkoop, were natives of Pennsylvania, the former having been born on July 19, 1817, died on February 27, 1893, and the latter born on January 23, 1817, died on November 30, 1903.

Having started in life with five cents in money, it cannot be denied that Mr. Boling has made a wonderful success in his business. He has succeeded by dint of great nerve and a philosophy all his own. He is a well-known citizen in the county and is highly respected wherever known.

He is a stanch Democrat and for many years served as precinct committeeman. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 148, at Greensburg, and has been a member since he was twenty-one years old. Mrs. Boling is a member of the Baptist church, while Mr. Boling is a member of the Presbyterian church.

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### JOHN E. OSBORN.

The legal profession has claimed many of the brightest minds of Decatur county and from the beginning of the county's history in 1822 the bar of the county has included men of high standing. From the bar of this county men have gone out to become congressmen, members of the highest courts of the state and lieutenant-governors. In whatever position they have found themselves they have acquitted themselves with credit. One of the younger members of the Decatur county bar is John E. Osborn, the senior member of the firm of Osborn & Hamilton. Without those advantages which so many of the younger lawyers of today have, he has arisen to a high place in his community through the sheer force of his personality and enjoys the utmost confidence of both bench and bar in this section of the state.

The Osborn family is of English ancestry and were early settlers in the state of New Jersey. It was in that state that Albert I. Osborn, the father of John E., was born on February 3, 1831. Albert I. Osborn was only four years of age when he came with his father, John Osborn, to Dearborn county, Indiana, later locating in Decatur county. In this county he grew to manhood, married, reared his family, and is still living. He is now in his eighty-fifth year and makes his home at Newpoint.

John E. Osborn, the youngest child of his parents, was born on August



*John E Osborn*



25, 1872, near Newpoint, Decatur county, Indiana. Reared on the farm and educated in the public schools at Newpoint, Rossburg and Mechanicsburg, he reached man's estate without any other than a solid common-school education. He remained on the farm until he was nineteen years of age, and desiring to become something else than a farmer, he began the study of law by himself. So rapidly did he master the rudiments of the legal profession that he was admitted to the bar in May, 1897. However, he had previously been appointed deputy county auditor, receiving the appointment at the age of nineteen, and had served as deputy auditor under his brother-in-law, John J. Puttman, from December 7, 1891, to March, 1896.

The professional career of Mr. Osborn was begun in partnership with Elmer E. Roland, but six months later he resigned from the firm to become the partner of Hugh Wickens, the present circuit judge. After the election of Mr. Wickens as judge of the ninth judicial circuit, Mr. Osborn was in partnership with Lewis A. Harding, the firm being known as Osborn & Harding from November, 1910, to January 1, 1912. On the latter date Frank Hamilton became a member of the firm, which was then changed to the firm of Osborn, Hamilton & Harding. This partnership continued until November, 1912, when Mr. Harding was elected prosecutor of this judicial district and withdrew from the firm. Since that time Mr. Osborn has been associated with Mr. Hamilton.

John E. Osborn has now been practicing before the bar of this county for nearly twenty years and has had many important cases in the county, district and state courts. His practice has constantly increased and he has had the management of many interesting cases. So successful has he been that in his several firm changes he has been able to take with him the personal business which he had acquired as a member of these respective firms. The career of Mr. Osborn has not altogether been confined to his legal business. He has branched out in industrial and commercial enterprises with the same degree of success which has marked his progress in his chosen field of law. He is a stockholder and a director of the American Cooperage Company of Helena, Arkansas; the Columbia Cooperage Company of McGehee, Arkansas; the Arkansas Cooperage Company of Jennie, Arkansas, and is a partner with John T. Meek in a plantation in Concordia Parish, Louisiana, near Natchez. He and Mr. Meek own forty-four hundred acres of land on which they raise rice, cotton and considerable live stock. They also have a saw-mill on the plantation.

On July 17, 1900, John E. Osborn was married to Grace Gullefer, the



daughter of Dr. Thomas B. and Louise (Hederick) Gullefer, to which union one son has been born, Wendell G., born on October 23, 1905.

Mrs. Osborn's father, Dr. T. B. Gullefer, was born eight miles from Indianapolis, Indiana, on March 12, 1851, a son of Stephen Gullefer, also a native of Marion county, Indiana, who died on his farm in that county in 1901. Stephen Gullefer was a son of Aaron Gullefer, a native of Wayne county, Indiana, an early settler of Marion county, where he acquired a farm of six hundred and forty acres. The wife of Stephen Gullefer was Emily Bowers, born in Salem, Indiana, in 1824, who died in July, 1853. Dr. T. B. Gullefer is the only child born to this union now living. After the death of his first wife Stephen Gullefer married a second time and had six children by his second marriage, three of whom are dead, those living being John N., who owns the home farm; Eliza A., who resides with her brother John, and Judson, a resident of Indianapolis.

After receiving a common-school education in the schools of Marion county, Doctor Gullefer spent one year in Butler College and then became a student of DePauw University for three years. After leaving college he taught school in the rural districts for six years. In 1879 he entered the medical college at Indianapolis and was graduated with the class of 1881, later taking a post-graduate course in the Chicago Homeopathic College, from which he was graduated in 1891. Doctor Gullefer practiced in Plainfield, Indiana, for five years; in North Vernon, Indiana, for two years, and has been in continuous practice in Greensburg, this county, for the past twenty-five years.

Dr. Thomas B. Gullefer was married in 1873 to Louise Hedrick, who was born in Gallatin county, Kentucky, in 1851, daughter of John and Charlotte Hedrick, to which union two children were born, Grace and Bessie. Grace is the wife of Mr. Osborn and Bessie married John Horning, Jr., a grain merchant of Greensburg. Mrs. Gullifer passed away on July 5, 1915.

Doctor Gullefer is a Republican in politics and has served as coroner of Decatur county for eleven years; six years as secretary of the county board of health, and four years as secretary of the city board of health. He also served as United States pension examiner for one year, and is the present medical examiner for the government civil service in the fourth congressional district. He is a member of the Indiana Institute of Homeopathy.

John E. Osborn made his first start in Democratic politics immediately after reaching his majority and has taken a keen interest in political affairs ever since. As member of the Democratic state central committee from the

sixth congressional district from January, 1908, to January, 1912, his wise and judicious management of Democratic affairs was largely responsible for the election of many Democrats to office. When Finley Gray was elected to Congress in 1912, he was the first Democrat to go to Congress from this district for twenty-five years. Mr. Osborn deserves no little share of the credit for bringing about the election of this Democratic congressman.

Mrs. Osborn is an active member of the Christian church of Greensburg. Mr. and Mrs. Osborn are prominent in the various activities of the community which go toward making it a better and happier place in which to live. Their influence is always cast in behalf of all humanitarian and benevolent projects and in this way they have earned the commendation of all those with whom they come into contact.

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#### GEORGE W. BOLING.

During a period of nearly a century, various members of the Boling family have been prominent in the agricultural, industrial, commercial and political life of Decatur and adjoining counties. The family was founded in this section of Indiana by Benjamin Boling, an interesting pioneer citizen of this region. William Boling, the father of George W., and the son of Benjamin Boling, owned a farm just over the line from Decatur county in Franklin county, and spent all of his life on this farm. It is now owned by Albert Boling, a brother of George W., and the present county treasurer.

George W. Boling, who is best known in Decatur county for his interest in the St. Paul Hardware Company, of St. Paul, Indiana, was born on September 14, 1873, in Franklin county, Indiana. His parents were William and Hannah (Humphrey) Boling, the former of whom was born in 1828 and who died in October, 1899. Hannah Humphrey was the second wife of William Boling and now lives in Adams in this county. His first wife was a Miss Sloan, who bore her husband one child, Josephine, now deceased. By the second marriage there were twelve children, of whom two, Mrs. Alice Wheeler, the eldest, and Jasper, the fifth born, are deceased, the former dying in February, 1914, at her home in Laurel, Indiana. The living children are, Mrs. Martha Jane Carr, who lives at Frankfort; Mary, who makes her home with George Logan in Clay township, and is his housekeeper; Albert, who is the present treasurer of Decatur county; Mrs. Ada Wright, who is the wife of Wilbur Wright, of Adams, Indiana; George

W., who is the subject of this sketch; Walter T., who is in the feed and grain business and operates a mill at St. Paul; Clyde; Elmer; Owen, and Edna, all of whom are in Indianapolis.

Although a member of a large family, George W. Boling was not denied the very best educational advantages and, after completing the common school course of Decatur county, was a student at the Danville Normal school and the Indianapolis Business University. He was employed by various firms in Indianapolis after graduating from the business college, particularly the William B. Burford Printing Company, the Erie Railroad and the American Express Company. In 1901 he came to St. Paul, Indiana, and for two years operated the William Nading elevator. In 1903 Mr. Boling entered the hardware business under the firm name of Leffler & Boling at St. Paul. This arrangement continued until in October, 1903, when the firm became Mobley & Boling. This firm continued until 1905, when Elmer Upjohn purchased Mr. Mobley's interest when the St. Paul Hardware Company was organized. In 1908 C. F. Thompson purchased the interest of Mr. Upjohn and he is now a member of the firm. The company has a storeroom, thirty by eighty feet, and a wareroom adjacent in a brick block. They also have a garage in the Red Men's building, forty by forty feet, which is used as a storage room for automobiles. The company handles general hardware, agricultural implements, the Johnson line of implements, Oliver plows and other standard lines, cream separators, Fehring buggies, manufactured at Columbus, Indiana, standard makes of wagons, guns and ammunition, stoves, kerosene and gasoline. The company is also the local agent for the Studebaker Automobile Company, and the agent in Shelby, Rush and Decatur counties for the Hercules car. Incidentally, they handle automobile supplies and automobile tires. They sell gas and gasoline engines, washing machines, install furnaces, water systems and plumbing. The company is well equipped to fit up a residence in a most modern way, so far as heating and water systems are concerned.

George W. Boling is connected with the St. Paul Building and Loan Association in the capacity of secretary. This company has its offices in Mr. Boling's store and was organized in 1886. It has done more to build up St. Paul than any other concern in the township, particularly in enabling laborers and quarrymen to erect homes in this community.

In May, 1901, George W. Boling was married to Nona B. Burner, the daughter of William Burner of Greensburg. To this union has been born three children, Mildred Louise, Vivian Avalon and Clara Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Boling and family are members of the Methodist Epis-

copal church. Fraternally, Mr. Boling is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is identified with the Republican party, but has never held office.

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### JAMES N. BUSH.

James N. Bush, a veteran of the Civil War and formerly a stone quarry superintendent and bridge builder of Adams township, was born in 1842 in Owen county, Kentucky, and is the son of Pleasant and Drusilla (Smoot) Bush, both of whom were natives of Kentucky. Their parents came from Virginia to Kentucky. The Smoot family came originally from Scotland.

Pleasant Bush was the son of Joseph and the Bush family came originally from England, and Joseph Bush's wife, who before her marriage was a Miss Duncan, was of German extraction. Pleasant Bush, himself, was born, lived and died in Kentucky.

In 1869 James N. Bush came to Decatur county with his wife, to whom he had been married in 1866, in Kentucky. They had one child at the time. Catherine (Smoot) Bush, the wife of James N., was born in Kentucky and was the daughter of George Smoot, a native of that state. Born in 1842, she died in Decatur county in 1908. They had a family of six children, three of whom are still living at St. Paul, William, who is a blacksmith; A. M., who is a restaurant keeper, and C. L., who is a partner with A. M. They have erected many fine buildings in this part of the county, including a fine concrete business building in St. Paul.

When Mr. Bush came to Decatur county he began cutting stone. He followed this trade for about a year, when he was employed by W. W. Lowe, for whom he worked for twenty-one years as superintendent of stone quarries. He afterward leased and operated for himself a stone quarry and, in the meantime, was engaged in bridge building.

In 1863 Mr. Bush enlisted in Company E, Thirtieth Regiment, Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, which was mounted and commanded by Colonel Alexandria. This regiment was attached to the army of General Stone-man. Mr. Bush saw hard service and was detailed to scout work mostly, his regiment having operated chiefly in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. He served until the close of the war, being mustered out of service on April 18, 1865. On one occasion his division engaged the army of General



Breckenridge at Saltville and was badly defeated; in fact, almost annihilated. However, they returned to Saltville with four thousand men and there engaged General Breckenridge and defeated him. Saltville was an important point, since it was the source of salt for the Confederate army. The Union army destroyed the salt works and the available supply of salt. Mr. Bush had many thrilling escapades in scout duties. He was possessed of wonderful zest and courage which served him well on many occasions. He was a brave and resourceful soldier and is today very proud of his military record, which he has every right to be.

For many years James N. Bush has been badly afflicted with rheumatism, but nevertheless is a man of cheerful disposition. In his life he has made considerable money and had a comfortable competence laid by to last him the remainder of his life. On account of sickness and death in his family his fortune is somewhat depleted. After the death of his wife he divided his property among his children and went to live with his son, a business man of St. Paul.

Mr. Bush is a man of strong convictions, which have always been a good guide for his actions. Reared in one of the strongest rebel counties of Kentucky, where all of his neighbors and practically all of his relatives joined the Confederate army, Mr. Bush himself believed in the cause of the Union and chose to support the stars and stripes. He believed that slavery was wrong and human freedom was right, and cast his lot accordingly. No citizen is more highly respected in Decatur county than the venerable James N. Bush.

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### JOHN R. KANOUSE.

The late John R. Kanouse was a well-known merchant and farmer of St. Paul, Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana. He was a man of large mental mold and of prodigious physical energy, one who by careful application to his personal business built up a large patronage in this community and who held, at the time of his death, the respect and confidence of the host of friends he had made during his life.

The late John R. Kanouse was born in 1844 in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of George and Isabelle (Sumpter) Kanouse, the latter of whom was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Sumpter, natives of Iowa, and relatives of General Sumpter of Civil War fame. George Kanouse himself was a soldier in the Civil War. In 1871 John R. Kanouse was

married to Courtney McCoy, a daughter of Isaiah and Mary (Short) McCoy, the former of whom was a native of Virginia, born in 1815, and who died in 1909. After coming to Decatur county with his parents, William and Nancy (Waple) McCoy, when seven years of age, he settled with them on a farm in Adams township. William McCoy was a miller on Clifty creek and a soldier in the War of 1812. He died in Kentucky. Isaiah McCoy was a Decatur county farmer and a very successful business man, who started in life with nothing and who by his shrewdness, industry and good management accumulated considerable property. He owned several hundred acres of land at the time of his death. A Republican in politics, he was a man of strong convictions as well as of good moral character. He died in 1909, leaving a family of seven children. John, Benjamin and Mrs. Nancy Lawhead are deceased; Mrs. Eliza Garrett is the wife of Lewis Garrett, of Adams township; Mrs. Julia Bright is the wife of John Bright, of Adams township; Courtney married Mr. Kanouse, and Mrs. Arminda Boicourt is the wife of George Boicourt, who lives near Letts in Sand Creek township.

Mrs. Courtney Kanouse was born in 1850 in Adams township and educated in the common schools of Decatur county. She grew to womanhood at home and there lived until her marriage in 1871. She is a woman of keen business judgment, well able to care successfully for the business with which she was left at the time of her husband's death. She is a member of the Christian church at St. Paul, of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Rebekahs.

After their marriage in 1871, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Kanouse started in life at St. Omer in Decatur county, where he was engaged in the mercantile business. He was very successful there, but after two years, in 1880, he and his wife removed to St. Paul, where he engaged in the mercantile business and in which he continued until two years before his death.

An unusually successful business man, the late John R. Kanouse owned, at the time of his death, not only the large store in St. Paul, but three hundred acres of land as well.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Kanouse had eight children, seven of whom are now living, as follow: Roy K. is a merchant in Greensburg; Mrs. Daisy Bewley lives in California; George is in the automobile business in Indianapolis; Mrs. Rose Hill, wife of Oscar Jay, prosecuting attorney of Elkhart, Indiana; Mrs. Nellie Hill is the wife of James Hill, of Westport; Mrs. Edna Wolf is the wife of Carl Wolf, of St. Paul; Frank lives at home.

No duty, public or private, was neglected by the late John R. Kanouse.

A man of deep religious convictions, he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he was identified with the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias. He was also a Red Man. His acquaintances and friends were not confined to Decatur county. He had a host of friends in Shelby county as well. His beloved widow is a woman of refinement and of splendid Christian character. She has a beautiful home in St. Paul, where, with her son and his wife, she is living.

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### JOHN T. PAVY.

No family in the western part of Decatur county has exerted a more widely marked influence for good throughout that section than has the Pavy family, which has been active in the good works of the Milford and the Burney neighborhoods for the past four or five generations and is one of the most substantial and well-established families in this part of the state. The late John T. Pavy, whose death at his home in Burney on March 21, 1914, was widely mourned throughout the section of the county in which he so long had been one of the leaders in the religious and social life thereabout, was an able, upright and influential citizen; a man who created a distinct impress upon the life of his time in the community in which for years he had gone about doing good, and it is but fitting and proper that in a history of the county covering the period of his activities here, there should be presented a modest sketch of his useful career, together with some of the salient points relating to his interesting family. Though a quiet, unassuming man, John T. Pavy ever was foremost in the good works of his neighborhood and none therein was held in higher esteem and respect than he. Generous and kind-hearted, he ever was willing to lend a helping hand and many there are in the part of the county to which his labors were devoted who have cause to cherish his memory with feelings of gratitude and warmest admiration. A devout Christian, he imparted to all his relations with his fellow men a spirit of sincerity that left no doubt regarding the noble and disinterested motives that animated his course of action. In his daily walk and conversation, John T. Pavy was frank and direct, open and aboveboard; and all men knew where he stood on questions affecting the general welfare. Being one of the most substantial farmers in the western part of Decatur county, he very naturally and by proper right took his place among the leaders of

thought and sentiment thereabout and his judgment on local issues or on questions of right and policy exerted a fine and enduring influence upon the neighborhood. He and his wife were members of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith, the family being among the most active workers in the various beneficences of the church. He was an ardent Republican, though not of the office-seeking class, and his sound judgment and keen knowledge of affairs gave to his political opinions no light weight with the managers of the party in this county. He was an ideal husband and father, his invariable and unswerving devotion to his family having been beautiful to see, and his death created a vacancy in the family circle which time does not fill, his widow and children being devoted to his memory, cherishing the same as a priceless legacy, for he left a stainless name; the record of a blameless life, than which there can be no more fitting phrase used in eulogy.

John T. Pavy was born on a farm in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, a short distance west of the village of Burney, in the year 1848, a son of J. J. and Nancy (Deem) Pavy, both members of pioneer families in this county, further details of the genealogy of this family being presented elsewhere in this volume, these families having been prominent and influential in the days of the county's early settlement. Reared on the home farm, receiving the most careful training in the rudiments of agriculture, a vocation to which he was destined to devote his life, John T. Pavy attended Hartsville College for a time and completed his education at Franklin College. He entered upon his life as a farmer with characteristic energy, giving to the details of the farm a studious attention which was productive of results and he became quite successful, leaving a valuable estate at the time of his death.

On March 28, 1878, at Milford, Decatur county, Indiana, John T. Pavy was united in marriage to Anna Jackson, who was born on a farm in Clay township, this county, daughter of William T. and Margaret (Miers) Jackson, the former of whom was the son of William D. and Amelia (Hillman) Jackson, who settled in this county in 1840. William D. Jackson was a Virginian and his wife was a native of Maryland. Shortly after their marriage they located in Cincinnati, where William D. Jackson became a prosperous real estate dealer. In 1840 they came to Decatur county, settling on a quarter-section of land in Fugit township, removing thence, in 1847, to Clay township, where they lived until 1853, in which year they moved to a farm two and one-half miles west of the town of Greensburg, where they spent the rest of their lives. An interesting story of the life



of this pioneer family is presented elsewhere in this volume in the biographical sketch relating to William E. Jackson, a brother of Mrs. Pavy.

William T. Jackson was about eighteen years of age when his parents moved from Cincinnati to this county. He married Margaret Miers, daughter of Thomas Miers, one of the most substantial of the pioneer farmers of Decatur county, and to this union were born eight children, namely: Anna, the widow of Mr. Pavy; James, deceased; Edwin, a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county; Benjamin J., deceased; Adelaide, who married Henry Barnes; William E., a prominent farmer of Washington township, this county, who married Alta Moore; Charles J., who died in infancy, and Harry, who lives in Colorado. William T. Jackson died at the age of sixty years and his wife died at the age of sixty-eight.

Anna (Jackson) Pavy was born in a log cabin on what is now known as the Miers farm in Clay township, then owned by her father, previously by her grandfather. She was educated in the schools at Milford, this county, and at the old academy at Danville, Indiana, her father having been for a time engaged in the dry goods business at Danville. Upon her marriage, in 1878, to Mr. Pavy she entered seriously upon the life of farming and was an earnest and devoted helpmeet of her husband. When she was married she was a member of the Methodist church, but changed her church affiliation to the Baptist in order to conform her faith to that of her husband, he having been reared in the Baptist faith, and for years they were among the most active and influential members of the congregation to which they were attached. A woman of broad mind and sterling character, Mrs. Pavy has always been an influence for good in the Burney neighborhood and her home in the pleasant village of Burney is a center from which radiate only the blandest and most salutary promptings.

To John T. and Anna (Jackson) Pavy were born two children, a son and a daughter, Harry, who was born in 1882, is operating a part of the home farm, and Lena, who married Ewing Arnold, lives on the William F. Smiley farm, one and one-half miles south of Greensburg. Beside his wife and children, John T. Pavy left several brothers and sisters to mourn his death, to his parents having been born the following children: Susan, who lives on the old Pavy farm south of Burney; Elizabeth; Dorcas, who married Felix Gartin, a prominent live stock dealer of this county, died in 1915; Matilda, who lives on the home farm; John T., deceased, the subject of this sketch; James, a farmer of the Forest Hill neighborhood; Rev. William A., pastor of the Baptist church at Waldron; Nannie, who

married Daniel Harker; Mary J., who married John Templeton, and Minerva, who was born blind and who is living at the old home. Minerva Pavy was educated in the Indiana school for the blind at Indianapolis and became a proficient musician, being not only a fine singer, but an accomplished pianist, having supplemented her course in the state school by a finishing course in the Indianapolis Conservatory of Music. She is a woman of much charm and grace of manner and of a highly cultivated mind. Despite the affliction which has shut her out from a sight of all the beauties and the wonders of the world, she is possessed of a charmingly cheerful disposition and is a great favorite with her many friends.

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#### OTTO F. DIETRICH.

Among the prosperous and well-established enterprises of Burney, Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, is the saw-mill, owned and operated by Otto F. Dietrich, which was established in 1902 with an invested capital of three thousand dollars. This mill has a capacity of eight thousand feet daily and Mr. Dietrich, while he does some commercial custom work, is largely engaged in cutting and sawing his own timber. He buys timber in large tracts, has the logs cut and saws them in his own mill. He employs the minimum of six hands and sometimes as many as twenty. The mill consists of the very latest equipment.

Otto F. Dietrich was born on April 8, 1876, in Germany, and is the son of Ferdinand and Marie (Weber) Dietrich. On May 9, 1888, Otto F. Dietrich, at the age of twelve years, arrived in America with an aunt, Pauline Dietrich. For some time he resided with an uncle, Charles Dietrich, in Tipton county. Although he had received a liberal education in Germany, he attended school for four years after coming to America and mastered the English language. For five years he worked as a farm hand in Tipton county, Indiana. In 1893 his parents and brothers and sisters came to Bartholomew county, Indiana, and began farming one and one-half miles west of St. Louis. They purchased a farm near Hartsville and there the father died in 1895. After his death, the mother and sisters moved to Cincinnati, where the mother purchased a home.

Mr. Dietrich, however, remained in this state and engaged in farming and in saw-mill business. He took charge of the old mill at Burney and in 1905 tore out all of the old machinery and installed new. Mr. Dietrich

rents land extensively on which he raises crops to feed the horses which he uses in the mill and for hauling logs to the mill.

On October 8, 1902, Mr. Dietrich was married to Lillie Aton, who was born on a farm, one and one-half miles southwest of Hope in Bartholomew county. They have had two children, Frank, who died at the age of nine years in the fall of 1913 of diphtheria, and Paul, who is now six years old.

Mr. Dietrich is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Loyal Order of Moose. Formerly, he was a member of the Knights of Pythias.

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### ANTHONY B. MULROY.

Anthony B. Mulroy, a substantial citizen and business man of Decatur county, Indiana, and a resident of St. Paul, was born in 1859, in this town, the son of Richard and Bridget (Barrett) Mulroy, the former of whom was a native of County Mayo, Ireland, born in 1825.

On the day that Richard Mulroy was twenty-two years old, he took passage on a sailing boat, "Star of the North," for America, landing in New York city after an eventful voyage in 1847. When the ship on which he came to America was three days out of port, a terrific storm was encountered and the experiences of all on board was something to be remembered during their entire lives. For three days the ship was completely lost, and at times those on board almost gave up hope of ever seeing land. However, the "Star of the North" was a good, seafaring boat and successfully withstood the severe storm. When Richard Mulroy landed in New York city, he was without funds or friends. Starting out in life in the new world, he obtained employment on a farm in New York state, and after working a year there removed to Pennsylvania, where he remained for three years. He made three unsuccessful attempts to enlist as a soldier in the Mexican War.

After three years in Pennsylvania, Richard Mulroy left Pittsburgh and came to Lawrenceburg, Indiana, by boat. From Lawrenceburg he walked to Indianapolis where he remained for four or five years, during which time he was engaged in railroad construction work, making Indianapolis his headquarters.

In 1857 Richard Mulroy was married to Bridgett Barrett, who was

born in 1823 in Ireland in County Mayo within forty miles of the birth-place of her future husband. Born on the west coast of Ireland, she came alone to America in 1856, and after landing in this country came direct to Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, where she had a sister living, Mrs. John Riley, with whom she made her home until her marriage in 1858.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mulroy came to St. Paul in 1858, where her husband lived until her death in 1906. He died on June 2, 1915, at the age of ninety years. During his entire active life he had been engaged in railroad construction work and in stone quarries. He had been retired only five years. In fact, in 1914, at the age of eighty-nine, he planted and cultivated a large garden. He was a stanch Democrat in politics, and a member of the Catholic church, as was his good wife also. They had four children, Anthony B., the subject of this sketch, of St. Paul; Edward, of St. Paul; Anna, who lives at home, and Margaret, who died in infancy.

Anthony B. Mulroy, who was born in St. Paul one year after his parents removed to this town, was educated in the common schools and when he was thirty-two years old, engaged in stone quarry work. At this time he was married to Henrietta Avey, the daughter of Daniel Wilson and Melissa (Pence) Avey, natives of Shelby county, Indiana, and old, well-established and highly respected citizens of this section.

As late as 1914 Anthony B. Mulroy was engaged in railroad construction and stone quarry work. In October of 1914 he purchased the grocery and mercantile business of William Kelso, of St. Paul, and is today engaged in business for himself. He handles a complete line of dry goods and general merchandise. Within a comparatively short time he has built up a large trade in this community. Mr. Mulroy is a popular citizen and one with whom the people of this community naturally like to trade. He has been honorable and upright in all his relations with the public, and upon this basis his business has grown since he took possession.

Mr. and Mrs. Mulroy have had one son, John A. Mulroy, who was born on January 1, 1899. He was born on Sunday morning, the first day of the week and the first day of the year. Luck seems to have been with him, as he has never been sick a day since his birth. He is a young man of rare promise and is popular in this community. Having graduated from the common schools in 1914, he is now a student in the freshman year at the high school at St. Paul.

In a beautiful residence of St. Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Mulroy have their home. Formally speaking, Mr. Mulroy is a Democrat, but he is not quite so stanch a Democrat as was his father in his earlier years. Mr. Mulroy



places the welfare of his country above the success of his party. He is a progressive citizen of the substantial and solid type and has a host of friends in this community. All his life has been spent in St. Paul. As a consequence of his industry and good management he has accumulated a substantial competence and now owns considerable property in this section.

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### JAMES B. DAVIS.

An enterprising and successful farmer of Decatur county, Indiana, who lives three miles southeast of Burney, now living retired, and who has succeeded in life as a consequence of his own persistent industry and good management, is James B. Davis, a man who believes strongly in principles of right and justice, and who during his long life in this county, has been regarded as one of its very best citizens.

James B. Davis, who was born in 1848, in Union county, Indiana, is the son of Isaac and Martha (Barr) Davis, the former of whom was born in Butler county, Ohio, in 1803, the son of James Davis, Sr., who married Mary Taylor. They were natives of New Jersey. Mary Taylor was of Scotch-Irish origin, and James Davis was of German parentage. They were among the earliest settlers in Union county, Indiana, and lived the greater part of their lives in that county. They were very prosperous farmers, and at the time of his death, he owned approximately one thousand acres of land. They had eight children, of whom Isaac Davis, the father of James B., was the seventh child. He was born in Butler county, Ohio, and about 1803, when Isaac was born, the family removed to Union county, and there entered land, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Isaac Davis was a successful farmer and owned several hundred acres of good land at the time of his death. Until 1856, when the Republican party was organized, he was a Whig, and he affiliated with the party of Lincoln, and remained loyal to it all the rest of his days. He was more of a patriot than a partisan and always had at heart the best interests of his country.

Isaac and Martha (Barr) Davis had eight children, of whom James B. is the fifth child. The father died in 1858. James B. Davis lived at home and worked on the farm until he was twenty-two years of age, when he removed to Decatur county, Indiana, and purchased a farm in Jackson township. In 1873 Mr. Davis was married to Martha C. Ewing, who was the daughter of Patrick and Lydia (Morgan) Ewing.

The Ewing family is one of the oldest and most prominent in Decatur county, and is descended from one Patrick E. Ewing, who emigrated to America from Ireland some time during the War of the Revolution. On the voyage a son was born, and on account of kindness shown to him by General Putnam, he was named for the general and to this day the name has been kept in the family. On Patrick's arrival in America, he settled in Maryland, near the Susquehanna river, some forty miles from Baltimore, where he died. His family consisted of four sons, Samuel, Joshua, Nathaniel and Putnam. The first three settled in Virginia, where they became prominent citizens. Their descendants have since migrated to Tennessee and Missouri, and have attained considerable prominence in different states. Putnam Ewing remained in Maryland until some time after his marriage to Miss Jennie McClelland, the daughter of Doctor McClelland, of that state, and then came to Bourbon county, Kentucky, in 1806. Subsequently, he settled in Bath county and there lived and died. He had ten children, namely: Robert, Patrick, Joshua, Polly, Samuel, Jennie, James, Eliza, George McClelland and Andrew Jackson. It was the Patrick Ewing of this family who was the father of Mrs. James B. Davis. He was born in Cecil county, Maryland, in 1803, and was three years old when brought by his father to Kentucky. He remained on the farm in Kentucky until after his marriage to Lydia Morgan, of Montgomery county, Kentucky. He was a member of the state militia of Kentucky and was married in September, 1826, to Miss Morgan. About 1827 he came with his wife and infant daughter to Decatur county. He was a hardy son of illustrious ancestors and was a man of exceptional native ability. He accumulated a large tract of land in this county.

Mrs. James B. Davis is a woman of rare intelligence and one whose conversation sparkles with wit and humor. She had only the meager advantages of the pioneer public schools as far as an education is concerned, but she is a woman of great native ability, and one does not have to listen to her conversation long before discovering this wonderful native ability. Her children can be justly proud to have for their mother a woman of her intelligence.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Davis, they lived in Jackson township on a farm until 1883, when they sold out and purchased the farm they now live upon, three miles southeast of Burney. In the early years of their married life they had the usual experiences of the pioneer citizens. They lived in a log cabin for the most part, and both remember keenly the hardships of this early life.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis have had three children, George was born in 1874, and is a farmer in Decatur county; William, in 1875, and is engaged in farming with his brother, George, and Della is the wife of Samuel Hanks, who lives three miles northwest of Burney and who is a prosperous farmer. Della has one child, Mary C. Hanks. George and Will Davis lived on the farm at home until George was twenty-eight years old, when he decided to begin life for himself. At that time the parents gave to the sons, George and Will, a farm of one hundred and twenty acres with an incumbrance of some two or three thousand dollars. This was no small load, even for mature shoulders, but by industry and shrewd management they cleared the farm of indebtedness in sixteen months' time. They have prospered proportionately ever since, and are now large dealers in live stock. Their home is called "Bachelors' Hall."

James B. Davis had always been identified with the Republican party until 1912, when the new Progressive party was formed, with which he affiliated. He is a man who is little impressed by political parties or party emblems, but believes it is his duty, as a citizen, to support superior men and superior measures, rather than to cast his vote blindly without regard to platforms or principles, or the moral standing of the party's candidate. The sons are like their father in this respect. They are well respected in this community and favorably known.

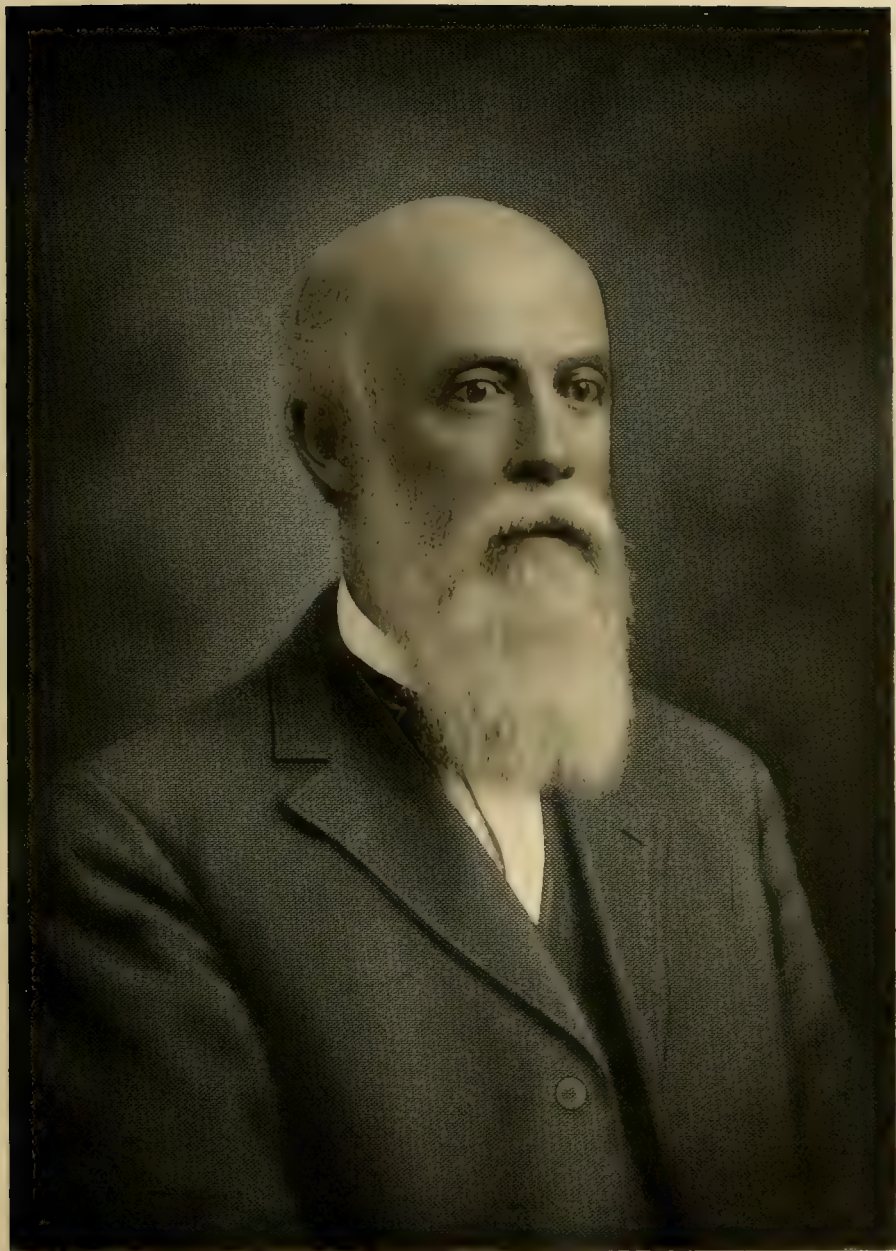
Mr. and Mrs. Davis have lived honorable and upright lives and have set a worthy example for their children and for their friends in this community. No word of suspicion has ever attached to the character of James B. Davis. He is a manly man and a true Christian gentleman.

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#### GEORGE S. CRAWFORD, M. D.

In the historical and biographical annals of any section, a review of the lives of leading physicians is interesting not only because of the professional service which this honorable body of men perform, but because, as a general rule, physicians attain the rank of leadership in public movements and public enterprises. This may be true because, aside from their professional education, their standard of intelligence and their breadth of information and sympathy are such as to uphold ideals which the various members of the community emulate. No one can ever take the place of the physician in the affection of the family or in the home, neighborhood, town or





George S. Crawford M.D.





city. To some extent the physician is the arbiter between life and death and upon his skill depends frequently the very endurance of human life. When the art of the good physician fails and life flows out, he, nevertheless, remains as the comforter of loving and dear friends in times of sorrow and distress. No one can measure his influence, since it is of a most intimate and personal kind. Dr. George S. Crawford, a well-known physician of Milford, this county, who has practiced his profession forty-one years in this community, is the very type of man to attain a position of proud eminence in the community life. Day by day, week by week and year by year, he has gone about the homes of Clay and adjoining townships doing his duty in a professional way; but, what is far greater and grander, doing his duty as a sympathetic-minded friend and man.

George S. Crawford was born, on December 23, 1852, in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn county, Indiana, the son of Rev. James and Hannah F. (Robinson) Crawford, natives of New York and Madison, Indiana, respectively. When Doctor Crawford was an infant only three days old, he was bereft of the loving tenderness and care of a fond mother by her untimely death, and he was taken in charge by Mrs. Owensby, who had just lost her baby by death, and was reared by her until he was two years of age, the Owensby's home having been in Crawfordsville, this state. Subsequently, Rev. James Crawford remarried, his second wife having been Kate Woodfill, a sister of James M. Woodfill, of Greensburg, and after his death his widow made her home with Doctor Crawford, in Milford, for twenty-five years. Rev. James Crawford was a pioneer Methodist minister, had a large circuit in this section of the state and, during his life, filled many appointments. He was a man of noble and generous impulses, whose life seemed to be devoted to the service of his fellowmen.

When he was old enough George S. Crawford attended the typical Hoosier schools and there obtained the rudiments of a liberal education, later pursuing his education in Moores Hill College. At the age of twenty-one he was graduated from the Indiana Medical College at Indianapolis, and upon his graduation, came to Decatur county, locating at Milford, where he established himself in the practice of his profession. There he has remained for forty-one years, during which time he has built up one of the largest practices of any physician now living in Decatur county.

Doctor Crawford was not married until rather late in life. His wife, to whom he was married on July 6, 1898, before her marriage was Frances Olive Blackmore, who was born on October 19, 1867, on a farm five miles

west of Greensburg, the daughter of Lawrence O. and Frances W. (Wallace) Blackmore, natives of Shelby county, Kentucky, and Rockbridge county, Virginia, respectively, the former being the son of Owen W. Blackmore, of Shelby county, Kentucky, who came to Decatur county, Indiana, in 1835. Mrs. Crawford's wife's mother was the daughter of John and Jane (Quigley) Wallace, natives of Virginia, who moved to Decatur county in 1837 and settled in Washington township. This was only two years after the coming of the Blackmores, who lived only a mile east of the Wallace farm.

Doctor and Mrs. Crawford have had no children. They are prominent in the social life of Clay township and both are well known in Greensburg and popular there. Both are members of the Presbyterian church at Greensburg. Dr. Crawford is a member of the Masonic fraternity, having joined this lodge at Milford many years ago. He is a member of the Decatur County Medical Society and the Indiana State Medical Association. He is a Republican and one of the most uncompromising of men as far as his political belief is concerned. He believes in the principles of the Republican party and believes that this party is best equipped from tradition and from its record of past usefulness to administer the affairs of this government. A man who believes this as strongly as does Doctor Crawford is naturally well settled in his political belief. He is a grand and useful figure in the community where he has lived and worked so long and enjoys the universal confidence and esteem of the people.

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#### JAMES M. SHORTRIDGE.

Among the better known and older citizens of St. Paul, Indiana, is James M. Shortridge, formerly a well-known hardware merchant of this community, who is now living retired. However, he devotes considerable time to the business of W. W. Townsend, a dealer of this place, and acts as a bookkeeper for him.

James M. Shortridge was born on November 6, 1849, in Johnson county, Indiana, the son of John and Ellen (Smock) Shortridge, the former of whom was born in 1822 and who died in 1899. The father was a native of Wayne county, Indiana, the son of George Shortridge, Sr., a native of Kentucky and an early settler in Wayne county. The parents of Ellen Smock were also natives of Kentucky. Her mother died in 1885 at the age of over ninety years.

The parents of James M. Shortridge moved to Greenwood and retired late in life and there died. The farm located near Greenwood, Johnson county, was purchased by James M. and his brother, George, and was farmed by the latter until his death. There were three children in the Shortridge family, George, now deceased; Mrs. Vandelene Washard, of Greenwood, and James M., the subject of this sketch.

When a lad of twenty-two years, James M. Shortridge became a brakeman on the Pennsylvania railroad and followed this occupation for four years. He then took up carpentering and house building in his home locality and also worked for the railroad as a carpenter. He was for four years employed by the Lake Erie & Western railroad as a bridge carpenter.

On November 26, 1879, Mr. Shortridge was married to Allie Martin, of St. Paul, the daughter of Ralph Martin, an early settler of Decatur county. After his marriage, Mr. Shortridge engaged in the hardware business. He bought out the store owned by John Buell and remained in business for thirty years, having been very successful. In 1909 Mr. Shortridge sold out the business. He has extensive real estate holdings in St. Paul, owning a two-story brick building on Main street, a one-story stone building and residence property. He also has two lots and fifty-five acres of farm land, beside other personal investments.

Mr. and Mrs. Shortridge have had four children, Elmer, who is a motorman on the Indianapolis & Cincinnati Traction line and is a machinist by trade; Mrs. Hazel Clark, of Indianapolis; Irene E., who is a teacher in the public schools and lives at home, and Helen, who also lives at home and is a student in the high school.

James M. Shortridge was reared a Republican as was his father before him, but late in life the father voted the Prohibition ticket. Mr. Shortridge voted for Horace Greeley and was a Democrat until 1896, when he refused to subscribe to the free-silver doctrine of the Democratic party and voted the Republican ticket, which he has voted ever since. Mr. and Mrs. Shortridge are members of the Christian church, in which he is a trustee. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and is a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons of Indianapolis and also the Murat Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Indianapolis. He is a member of the Baldwin commandery and the Knights Templar at Shelbyville. In May, 1915, he attended the golden jubilee of the Scottish Rite Masons at Indianapolis. In addition to these fraternal relations, Mr. Shortridge is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks No. 475, at Greensburg.



Of Mr. and Mrs. Shortridge's children, Elmer married a Miss Hess and has one child, Priscilla. Mrs. Hazel Clark also has one child, June Ellen.

It will have to be admitted that the life of James M. Shortridge has been a distinct and unqualified success, that he has accomplished a reasonable measure of the things he set out to do, and that, in his declining years, he may enjoy the comforts of life without the necessity of the toil which characterized his earlier years.

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### JOHN JOHNSON.

The Union soldier during the great war between the states builded wiser than he knew. Through four years of suffering and wasting hardship, through the horrors of prison-pens and amid the shadows of death, he laid the superstructure of the greatest temple ever erected and dedicated to human freedom. One of Decatur county's highly respected citizens who had a part in this memorable struggle is the venerable John Johnson, a retired farmer of Burney. He remembers very well the Polk and Tyler campaign.

John Johnson is the son of Richard and Fannie (McKee) Johnson, the latter of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1805. Richard Johnson was born in Kentucky in 1799, and, after emigrating to Indiana, settled near Vevay, Indiana, in Switzerland county, the home of Colonel Welsh and Edward Eggleston. He died in 1857 in Decatur county, Indiana, thirty-two years after coming to Decatur county, where he entered land near the town of Burney. He made the trip with an ox team in a covered wagon, camping in the woods on the way. At the side of a giant poplar tree he and his wife built a log cabin, where they lived when John Johnson was born. Decatur county was an unbroken forest at the time, there being no roads and scarcely any paths. Such as were used and passable were designated by marked trees. The wolves were thick in this county at the time and many a time chased the father of John Johnson into his cabin. On one occasion a deer came up to the Johnson cabin with the cows.

At the outbreak of the Civil War the venerable John Johnson tried to enlist under Colonel Welsh in the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, but was rejected on account of his eyesight, being blind in one eye. He then joined the Seventy-sixth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry,

by resorting to a trick. In order to get past the inspection officer he changed sides with a man next to him and was successful. The Seventy-sixth Regiment performed valiant service in Kentucky. Mr. Johnson for the most part performed scouting and picket duty.

After the war, Mr. Johnson came back to Decatur county, and resumed farming on the old Johnson homestead, entered from the government by his father. This tract, originally comprising one hundred and sixty acres, was later enlarged by the addition of forty acres, making two hundred acres in all. He has always been a farmer and very successful in a business way. At the present time he is living with his youngest daughter.

In 1871 Mr. Johnson was married to Sarah Jones, a daughter of the Rev. Preston Jones, and a native of Decatur county. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have had two children, namely: Mrs. Lilly (Johnson) Miers, the wife of Willard Miers, and Fannie, a teacher in the Burney schools, who lives with her father.

Mr. Johnson's father was a Whig politically, but upon the organization of the Republican party identified himself with that political organization. John Johnson, who was formerly a Republican, now is a Prohibitionist. For many years he has been prominent in the fraternal circles of this section, being a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford and a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney, Indiana. On March 4, 1913, Mr. Johnson had the misfortune to lose his wife, who passed away quietly, and whose remains are buried at Milford. At the present time he is in fair health only, but nevertheless his mind is clear and active and he has a vivid and accurate memory of the many stirring incidents of his life. He has been a useful citizen in this county and a man who well deserves the respect, which, in his declining years, is showered upon him by the people of Clay township.

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### JOHN T. CUSKADEN.

John T. Cuskaden, postmaster at St. Paul, Decatur county, Indiana, farmer, school teacher and real estate dealer, prominent Democrat and public-spirited citizen, was born on July 6, 1858, in Clay township, south-east of Milford, the son of George W. and Charity (Bartley) Cuskaden.

The paternal ancestry of John T. Cuskaden came to America from Ireland. George W. Cuskaden was a native of County Donegal, Ireland, who came to America about 1850. He landed in New Orleans, and after some wandering located in New York city, where he became an Irish linen

peddler. This was the foundation of his business fortune, which has been one of more than ordinary success. After peddling and walking across the country he finally landed in Greensburg, where he abandoned his pack and went to work on a farm for Hi Alley, for whom he worked some one or two years, after which he was married to Charity Bartley in Jasper county, Illinois.

After his marriage George W. Cuskaden purchased eighty acres of land in Illinois. He came back to Decatur county and began the usual life of a man on a rented farm in Clay township. After renting land for about two years, he purchased a farm just west of Milford, comprising one hundred acres, and located on the Shelby county line. Here he lived for about ten years, when he sold out and moved to Oregon. After remaining in Oregon a year, he came back to Indiana and purchased a large farm in Shelby county, Indiana. A few years before his death, which occurred in March, 1914, he traded the Shelby county farm for city property in Shelbyville, where he lived the last years of his life.

George W. Cuskaden was a prominent Democrat in Shelby county, and was honored with four terms as county commissioner of that county. He was a man of keen perceptions and had a broad knowledge of human nature. He was a member of the Episcopalian church. His good wife, Charity Bartley, was a native of Shelby county, born near St. Paul and the daughter of Jonathan and Elsie (Allen) Bartley, of Shelby county. The Allens of Shelby county are descended from early settlers in this part of the country who came from Massachusetts. They brought with them from old England considerable pewter plate which was later molded into bullets for self-defense. The present Cuskaden family has in its possession only one plate of this original collection. George Washington is supposed to have been served on this plate while in Trenton, New Jersey, some time during the Revolutionary War, by Mrs. Cuskaden's Grandmother Allen.

John T. Cuskaden grew to manhood in Shelby county, and was married in 1880 to Orpha Wright, a daughter of John Wright, who was an emigrant from Derbyshire, England. Her mother, Annie Ridlen, was a native of Shelby county. After Mr. Cuskaden was married he and his wife lived on a farm in Shelby county until about sixteen years ago, when he removed to St. Paul. Mr. Cuskaden taught school for twenty-two years. He has always taken an active interest in politics and is allied with the Democratic party, a stanch and true adherent of this party. He was appointed postmaster of St. Paul on August 1, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Cuskaden have had two children, Charity Ann, who was born on August 30, 1881, and who married Charles F. Mitchell, of Shelby county, has four children, Mildred M., Allen Wright, John William and Malcom F., and Ora Wright, on October 26, 1887, married Dora E. Roberts, of Shelby county, and they have one child, Clarice Winifred.

There is no doubt that Mr. Cuskaden, who has always been prominent in public affairs in Shelby and Decatur counties, owes much of his success to the splendid equipment he was permitted to obtain in the common schools of Shelby county and later in the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio. It was at the latter school he prepared for teaching. It was there that he developed his native capacity for learning and became a student of history and politics. John T. Cuskaden is a good man and a good citizen.

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#### LONDA WRIGHT.

Londa Wright, one of the prominent farmers and citizens of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, now living one and one-half miles north of Westport, was born on the old Richard Wright homestead in Clay township, near the Liberty church, and is a son of Richard and Luvica (Stark) Wright, the latter of whom was a daughter of Caleb and Anna (Boone) Wright. The genealogy and family history of the Wright and Stark families may be found in the biographical sketch of Caleb Stark Wright, contained elsewhere in this volume. Richard and Luvica (Stark) Wright had a number of children, of whom Londa was the youngest.

Born on the old Wright homestead in 1864, Londa Wright lived at home until he reached the age of twenty years, at which time his father died. He supplemented the education he received in the common schools of his home township in Decatur county by some fifty weeks spent at the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso. From the time he was twenty years old until he was twenty-three, Mr. Wright was engaged in teaching school.

In 1888 Londa Wright was married to Minnie May Smiley, a daughter of Harvey and Serilda (Robbins) Smiley, who was born on May 17, 1870, in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana. Her father was a native of Franklin county, Indiana, and when a lad came to Decatur county, where he became a prosperous farmer. He was a son of William Smiley, whose family history is contained elsewhere in this volume.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Wright began life together on a



farm of one hundred and eight acres, one and one-half miles north of Horace, in Sand Creek township. His present farm, which comprises two hundred and seventeen acres of fine land, is known as the old Robert Armstrong farm and is one of the best to be found in Sand Creek township.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright are the parents of five children, Arthur, born on April 5, 1890; Robert C., December 13, 1891; Lois Victoria, December 11, 1894, and Marshall and Margaret, twins, April 26, 1906.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Wright is progressive in his political ideas and principles, and is in no sense a hide-bound partisan. Both he and his good wife are members of the Baptist church at Westport. Formerly he was a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Greensburg, and during his membership there, passed through all the chairs, but some time ago dimitted on account of his inability to attend lodge meetings.

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### JOSEPH CORY.

In the history of the agricultural life of Decatur county, Joseph Cory, the proprietor of "Sulphur Springs Farm" of one hundred and sixty-eight acres, four miles from Greensburg on the Vandalia pike, occupies a conspicuous place. During almost a half century he has been one of the representative farmers of Decatur county, progressive, enterprising and persevering. Such qualities always bring a satisfactory reward. While Mr. Cory has benefited himself and the community in a material way, he has also been an influential factor in the educational, political and moral life of Washington township.

Joseph Cory was born in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, on December 26, 1845, a son of James and Martha (Dorton) Cory, the former of whom was born in 1817, coming to Decatur county about 1844, at which time he purchased the farm now owned by George Logan, where all of his children, except the eldest, were born and grew to manhood and womanhood. Mrs. Martha (Dorton) Cory, who was born in 1822, and whose parents came from New Jersey to Union county, Indiana, where their children were born, died in June, 1899. James Cory owned two hundred and forty acres of fine land in Decatur county, and was a Republican in politics. He was a successful farmer and a stockman of ability and promise. Mrs. Martha Cory's brother and sisters were John, Matthew, Ann and Belle.

James Cory was a son of Joseph and Nancy (Baker) Cory, the former



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH CORRY.



of whom, born in New Jersey, in December, 1788, came to Ohio on horse-back in young manhood. The Cory family is of Scottish and English origin. Nancy (Baker) Cory was a daughter of Daniel and Hannah (Westfield) Baker, the latter of whom was a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Halsey) Westfield. Daniel Baker was one of eight children born to Nathaniel and Abigail (Hendricks) Baker. Nathaniel Baker was born in Scotland in 1716, and came to America in 1735. He died on January 17, 1786, in his seventieth year, and his wife died on October 3, 1775, in her fifty-sixth year.

At the age of twenty-one years, Daniel Baker, who had enlisted as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, attracted the attention of Gen. George Washington, and served on his personal staff. It was Daniel Baker who piloted General Washington through the British lines to a silversmith for the purpose of having the general's field-glasses repaired. Daniel and Hannah (Halsey) Baker were the parents of nine children, Rhoda, Mary, Jacob, Joseph, Patrick, Philip, Elizabeth, Hannah and Nancy. In 1814 Daniel Baker and wife, with their children, came west to Ohio, where his death occurred in 1830, and there was inscribed upon his tombstone the following words: "A companion of Washington."

To James and Martha (Dorton) Cory six children were born, those besides the subject of this sketch being: Ephraim, who is a resident of Missouri; Henry, living in Iowa; Mrs. Sarah Carter, widow of Elijah Carter, living at Alexandria, Indiana; James, a resident of Clay township, living south of Burney, and Mrs. Belle Pleak, wife of Charles Pleak, living in Iowa.

Joseph Cory lived at home on his father's farm until his marriage on November 14, 1871, to Leanora Deem, the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Riner) Deem. Thomas Deem was born in Ohio in 1796, and came with his family from Ohio to this county, about 1831, locating on the farm where Joseph Cory now lives, where he died in 1853. His family remained there until about 1865, when they removed to Adams, where Mrs. Deem, widow of Thomas, died in 1895. Of their ten children five are still living, namely: Mrs. Catherine Daily, the widow of A. G. Daily, living in Greensburg at the age of eighty-five years; John W. Deem, of Greensburg, is eighty-four years of age; Mrs. Elizabeth Whitlow, wife of John Whitlow, a resident of Topeka, Kansas, eighty-one years of age; Oliver Deem, seventy-four years of age, a resident of Greensburg, and Mrs. Joseph Cory, the wife of the subject of this review. The deceased children of Thomas Deem and wife were Mrs. Eliza Anne Steward, who was the wife of Barney Steward, both of whom are now deceased; Lemuel, deceased; William



Henry, who died while in the service of his country during the Civil War; Thomas Henry, also a soldier of the Civil War, who died while in the service, and Mrs. Mary Anna Heaton, widow of Thomas Heaton, who died on March 6, 1915. The mother of these children, who, before her marriage, was Sarah Riner, was born, on October 20, 1809, in Virginia, and removed with her parents to Butler county, Ohio, in 1846. She was married to Thomas Deem in 1825, and they removed to Decatur county in 1833.

To Joseph and Leanora (Deem) Cory two children have been born, Walter B., deceased, and Irma, who married John M. Douglas, a native of this county, who is farming the old home place for Mr. Cory.

"Sulphur Springs Farm" in Washington township, consists of a fine quality of soil, which is gently undulating, and there general farming and stock raising are carried on. The farm is beautifully situated and the buildings are kept in a first-class state of repair. Hogs, corn and clover are the chief products of the farm, and Joseph Cory has always been rated as a successful farmer and business man.

The part which Joseph Cory has played in the agricultural development of Decatur county, Indiana, cannot be overestimated, but he has been no less prominent as a farmer than as a business man and citizen, and today, surrounded with all the material comforts of life, he enjoys the respect of his neighbors and the esteem of everyone with whom he has ever come in contact.

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#### WILLIAM H. MOBLEY.

In Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, one mile east of Harts-ville and about five miles southwest of Burney on the Columbus and Greensburg pike, lives William H. Mobley, a distinguished citizen, farmer and mule dealer, who it may be truthfully said, had he been born and reared under the shadow of and influence of Wall street, would certainly have become one of America's foremost captains of industry and millionaires. A comparatively young man but a man who is today known in all of the leading mule markets of the world, he could, if he decided to convert his personal property into cash and liquidate whatever indebtedness he has, have, besides his twelve hundred and eighty-five acres of rich farming land in Decatur county, at least twenty thousand dollars in cash. He is one of the largest horse and mule dealers in the Middle West and buys from all parts of the United States and ships to all of the leading markets of this

country, mules worth at least a half million dollars every year. Although he has expended great muscular and physical energy in his work, he has made his brain do most of the work and this is one of the secrets of his large success.

A man who is not yet forty-five years old and who has never had a single dollar given to him, his wealth today probably amounts to over two hundred thousand dollars. In 1894 he bought forty acres of land and in 1901 he had accumulated four hundred and ten acres which had cost him fifty-five dollars an acre and upon which he had a loan of twenty thousand dollars. Since then he has bought and sold several farms and has now twelve hundred and eighty-five acres.

William H. Mobley, who was born in 1871, is the son of John Henry and Mary Ann (Burk) Mobley, natives of Pennsylvania and of Scotch-Irish descent and who came to Indiana about 1842 and settled in Bartholomew county on a farm. His father was a successful farmer and business man and died in 1897 at the age of seventy-five years. He was a strong Republican in politics and leader in the councils of his party during his life. Mrs. Mary Ann Mobley was the daughter of Hunter Burk, who married a Miss Hunter, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Mobley lives in Bartholomew county with her youngest son. She and her husband had a family of ten children, Lyman, who lives in Kansas; Mrs. Emma Wilson, of Bartholomew county; Randolph M., who is a resident of North Dakota; Theodore, who lives in Bartholomew county; Mrs. Margaret Wright, who lives in California; Mrs. Ella Loose, who died in Iowa; Loren, who died in infancy; Arthur, who died in infancy; William H., the subject of this sketch, and James Hunter, who resides in Bartholomew county.

Large successes generally have small beginnings. It was so with the career of William H. Mobley. Beginning in a small way, his rise to fortune has become a matter of remarkable interest to the people of this county. The home farm and outbuildings are well kept and present a pleasing home appearance, nevertheless, an air of large and important business. The sale barn is eighty by one hundred and thirty-two feet and the cattle barn, fifty by eighty feet. Mr. Mobley holds auction sales attended by buyers from all parts of the country. The size of the buildings on his home farm and the business-like appearance of the establishment, suggest the auction barns of the large cities. Besides the two large barns on the farm, there is also a blacksmith shop and a garage. The owner of this great business enterprise has been offered one hundred and fifty dollars an acre for his home farm,

comprising four hundred and fifteen acres, and, according to the tax duplicates of Decatur county, is the highest-priced land to be found in the county. Mr. Mobley thinks real estate, and especially farm real estate, is the best investment in the world. The annual sales of the Mobley farm amount to between thirty and forty thousand dollars for every sale and at least one sale amounted to sixty-one thousand dollars. William H. Mobley buys one carload or ten carloads of mules in as many minutes and makes a thousand or two dollars quite as quickly. The expenses of his business are enormous for an enterprise of this kind. Ordinarily his telephone rent amounts to fifty dollars a month and he pays high wages to all of his employees. One man worked for him for ten years and received sixty dollars a month during the entire time. There are six tenant houses on the farm and the tenants rent land for one-third of the annual production. Men regularly employed on the farm, however, live at Hartsville. On September 25, 1914, the date of Mr. Mobley's annual sale, five hundred mules were sold. He has from one hundred to one hundred and fifty head of mules on hand at all times of the year and raises about two hundred head of cattle every year.

As a matter of fact, the large capacity for business with which William H. Mobley is endowed is not surprising when it is remembered that his deceased father was a large speculator, having the same active instinct regarding business.

In 1903 Mr. Mobley was married to Grace Pearl Myers, of Decatur county, the daughter of George M. and Mary Alice (Taylor) Myers, the former of whom lives one mile east of Forest Hill on a farm of one hundred acres, and who is a son of William Myers. Mary Alice Taylor was the daughter of George and Hannah (Wise) Taylor. To Mr. and Mrs. Mobley have been born two children, Mary Florine, in 1904, and Franklin Wayne, in 1908.

William H. Mobley has made good because he has given strict attention to his business. His striking personality has been no small factor in his success. He believes in taking chances and, moreover, he believes in taking big chances. To begin with, he is a man of highly progressive ideas. His mind is always at work. Although he received a good common school education and additional training in Hartsville College, there is nothing in his educational experience which would account for his magnificent success in life. While talking to you he leaves the impression of a man who knows what he wants and how to get it. He has always been a heavy borrower of money and is a stockholder in the Burney State Bank and a director of the Hope State Bank. He is a firm believer in his home county and believes in

investing in land in this county rather than in other states. Everything that Mr. Mobley buys, he buys at home, if it is at all possible to do so.

Although a Republican, he is interested in politics only as a citizen, and would not have the best office within the gift of the people if it were offered him. Any community is indeed fortunate to have as one of its citizens a man of the temper and ability of William H. Mobley, who is widely and favorably known.

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### CLARENCE E. GREELEY.

The Greeley Stone Company of St. Paul, Indiana, is one of the large and flourishing enterprises of Decatur county and one in which the people of this county have every reason to take great pride. This enterprise is the conception of a father and two sons, the latter being Clarence E. and R. E. Greeley, both of whom have been residents of St. Paul since the beginning of the industry in 1908.

In the first place, the Greeley Stone Company, which was incorporated in 1908, with a capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars, is the largest plant of its kind in Decatur county, employing twenty-five men and producing twelve hundred carloads annually of stone for road building and concrete work. The plant is located on sixteen acres of land on the bank of Flat-rock and has a capacity of one thousand tons per day. The stone is excavated to a depth of thirty feet and elevated for grinding. The crusher which is of the Gates design, breaks the stone into different sizes and delivers the product into waiting cars on a special track owned by the company. The plant is operated by a one-hundred-and-fifty-horse-power engine, which derives its power from two hundred-and-fifty-horse-power boilers. Besides crushing all sizes of stones for road purposes, the company crushes and pulverizes limestone dust for fertilizer. This dust is obtained by screening and is a by-product of which about one carload daily is produced. By chemical analysis it shows about ninety-four per cent. calcium carbide and magnesia, and is valuable for fertilizer and is extensively used in this section. The pay roll of the company is from eight hundred to one thousand dollars per month and in 1914 amounted to nearly sixteen thousand dollars.

The geniuses who are behind this industry, actively, are Clarence E. Greeley, secretary and treasurer, and R. E. Greeley, general manager. Albert Greeley, of Muncie, Indiana, the father of Clarence E. and R. E., is the vice-president of the company. Clarence E. Greeley is a native of



Warren county, Ohio, being born on the Little Miami river in 1879, the son of Albert and Tena Greeley, both of whom were born in Ohio. Albert Greeley was engaged in the saw-mill and flour-milling business at Foster Crossing, Ohio, until the beginning of the gas boom in Delaware county, Indiana, when he moved to this state. After moving to Muncie, Indiana, he engaged in the lumber business, in which he has been very successful. He is now rated as one of the substantial business men of Delaware county. In 1908 the Greeley Stone Company was incorporated and another industry added to the interest of the Greeley family. Albert Greeley was president of the Indiana Lumber Dealers' Association and is, at the present time, one of the directors of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Indiana.

Born in Warren county, Ohio, Clarence Greeley was educated in the public schools of Muncie, Indiana. When twenty-four years of age, he engaged in the lumber business at Selma, a small town east of Muncie, and there he was very successful. From Selma, he moved to Illinois, where he was also engaged in the lumber business. He sold out in 1908 at the time of the organization of the Greeley Stone Company.

Clarence E. Greeley was married to Louise Bantly Kirk, a native of Muncie, Indiana, and the daughter of John and Bertha Kirk, also natives of Muncie. Mr. and Mrs. Greeley have one daughter, Helen, who was born in 1903.

R. E. Greeley, who is the general manager of the Greeley Stone Company, was born in Ohio in 1881 and was educated at Muncie, Indiana, and at Culver Military School. Before the organization of the Greeley Stone Company, he was also engaged in the lumber business. In 1901 H. E. Greeley was married to Velma Keltner, a daughter of Dr. F. M. and Rebecca Keltner, of Muncie. Mr. and Mrs. Greeley have four children, Mildred, thirteen years old; Robert, ten years old; Francis, seven years old, and Virginia, six years old.

Both Clarence E. and R. E. Greeley have been active in politics since coming to Decatur county. They are ardent and active Republicans as is their father also. R. E. was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Muncie, but has since transferred his membership to the Greensburg lodge, and R. E. Greeley is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

Here in Decatur county, the Greeley brothers have come to be recognized as among its most aggressive and capable young business men. The industry which they helped to establish and which they manage, has brought thousands of dollars to this county and the people here are highly pleased with their great success.

## JOHN W. BURNEY.

The careers of men who have been successful are instructive as guides and incentives to those who are just beginning life. The examples which successful men furnish, patient purpose and consecutive endeavor, strongly illustrate what each and every man may accomplish. John Burney, a model citizen of Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, is a man whose life is a conspicuous example of industry, courage as a citizen, wise and frugal living, cordial relations with the public generally. As a farmer he has enjoyed a large measure of success. He owns two large tracts of land, one a farm of two hundred acres, two miles northwest of Burney, and another of two hundred and eight acres, three and one-half miles southwest of town on the Columbus and Greensburg pike. The latter is known as the Graham farm.

John W. Burney was born on the old Burney homestead now owned by Edward Jackson, son-in-law of S. M. Burney, in 1849. He is the son of S. M. and Sarah (Pumphrey) Burney, old citizens of this county. S. M. Burney was born in 1814 in North Carolina, and came to Decatur county with his parents in pioneer times when Clay township was nothing but a howling wilderness. The family settled on the farm that Edward Jackson now owns, and which is known as the old Burney farm. The parents of S. M. Burney spent the remainder of their lives in Milford, the mother having died at the home of her son, S. M. He was a very successful farmer and owned several hundred acres of land in this county. He gave five hundred dollars to the town of Burney when it was founded and purchased stock in the railroad when it was built. Burney was named for him. A progressive, broad-minded man, his word was as good as his bond. A public-spirited citizen, he donated several hundred dollars to the building of the Methodist church at Milford and at Burney. He was a staunch Democrat and true to his party. While he never asked for office, he always held at heart the welfare of his party and country. He left the impress of his character and influence upon the life of this community, and died full of honors as only a private citizen who has done well his duty can die. He passed away in 1901 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Edward Jackson. The Pumphreys are an old family in this section.

John W. Burney began life for himself when about twenty-five years old. He had a small start from his father, but has accumulated most of his land and property by his own efforts.

In 1875 Mr. Burney was married to Mary Sharp, daughter of James

Sharp, a native of Decatur county, and an old and well-established family in Sand Creek township. The Sharps were early settlers here, and prominent in the social and agricultural life of the county.

Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. John W. Burney, of whom Samuel, Annie, Opal and Orlif are deceased; Lula, Clara, Arthur, Clifford, Bertha, Mattie and Ethel. Arthur lives in Adams; Bertha is the wife of Charles Gilliland, of Hope; Mattie married Clarence Thompson, of Burney; Ethel lives at home; Clifford married Blanche Horner. Although Mr. Burney is a staunch and true Democrat, he is, nevertheless, a progressive thinker, and is somewhat independent in his political thought and action. In 1890 he was elected trustee of Clay township, and gave a most efficient and satisfactory administration. He is a man well respected in this community and well known. Fraternally, Mr. Burney is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney. He is a charter member of this organization.

Mr. Burney's success as a farmer he attributes to raising corn and hogs, because from these he has derived his greatest profits.

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#### ALBERT BOLING.

The ancestral history of the Boling family in Decatur county goes back to the time when Benjamin Boling, a native of Virginia and the scion of a very old family of the Old Dominion, emigrated to Decatur county in 1818, four years before the city of Greensburg was laid out, and here homestead a farm of eighty acres, now owned by Albert Boling, the present treasurer of Decatur county. The Boling family have been prominent property owners in Decatur county for at least three generations and they have also been prominent in the civic and political life of this section. No case can be cited where they have ever failed to discharge worthily the sacred trusts imposed upon them by their neighbors and fellow citizens. Albert Boling has conscientiously and faithfully performed the duties of treasurer of Decatur county, and the efficiency and honesty with which he has managed this office were rewarded in 1914 by his election to a second term.

Albert Boling, who was born on October 4, 1867, on a farm near the Decatur and Franklin county line, is the son of William W. and Hannah (Humphrey) Boling, the former of whom was born on October 8, 1828, and

died in 1898, and the latter of whom was born in 1857 and is still living at Adams, in this county. William W. Boling was the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Boling, natives of Virginia, who, after coming to Decatur county in 1818 and homesteading the farm of eighty acres now owned by Albert Boling, lived in an Indian wigwam for a time, or until they could clear a place for and erect a house. Benjamin Boling died at the age of twenty-eight, a few years after coming to Decatur county. His widow, who lived to be ninety-two years of age, died near Crawfordsville, Montgomery county, Indiana. William W. Boling spent the whole of his life on the ancestral farm.

To William W. and Hannah (Humphrey) Boling were born five daughters and seven sons, two of whom, Alice, the first born, and Jasper, the seventh born, are deceased, the former dying in January, 1914. Of the surviving children, Mary lives in Clay township; Mrs. Martha Carr lives at Frankfort; Ada is the wife of Wilbur W. Wright, of Adams; Edna lives in Indianapolis; Albert is the subject of this sketch; George is engaged in the hardware business at St. Paul, this county; Walter also lives in St. Paul; Clyde, Elmer and Owen live in Indianapolis, where the latter is an attorney.

Educated in the district school of his neighborhood, located near the Decatur and Franklin county line, and in the Stubbs high school, Albert Boling was engaged in farming until he was thirty years of age. He then engaged in the grain business at Adams, and remained there for seventeen years, or until his election as treasurer of Decatur county in the fall of 1912. Having been re-elected in the fall of 1914, he is now serving his second term. Mr. Boling owns the old home farm, which now comprises altogether a hundred and twenty acres, city property in Indianapolis, and in Adams, where he owns a large grain elevator and residence. He is therefore entitled to rank as one of the well-to-do farmers, business men and citizens of this county.

Albert Boling was married in April, 1893, when he was twenty-six years old, to Carrie Harrison, daughter of Robert Harrison, an early settler of Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana. To this union two children have been born, Dorothy and Robert, both of whom are attending school.

For three generations the politics of the Boling family has been decidedly Democratic. Benjamin Boling was a Democrat, William W. Boling was a Democrat, and the son and grandson, Albert, the subject of this sketch,



is and has always been an ardent and enthusiastic Democrat and has been for years a leader in the councils of his party. Mr. and Mrs. Boling and family are members of the Christian church, and the former is a member of St. Paul Lodge No. 368, Knights of Pythias. Honorable in all the relations of life, private as well as public, Albert Boling has a host of friends in Decatur county, men who have stood valiantly at his side and fought the battles waged for the political success that is now his. He is a man who never forgets and never fails to cherish his obligations to a friend and to those who have stood by him in a common thought and for a common cause. He well deserves the confidence of the people of the citizenship of this county.

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#### RICHARD T. STOTT.

That the Stott family was among the first to settle in the state of Indiana is proved by a tax receipt now owned by the venerable Richard T. Stott, of near Westport, Sand Creek township, Decatur county, which shows that his father, Louis Lunsford Stott, in 1813, paid taxes in Indiana for the years 1810, 1811 and 1812. Of course this was before Indiana was admitted to the Union, and before in reality it was a state at all. The family was founded in America by the great-grandfather of Richard T. Stott, who emigrated from Germany to Scotland, and from Scotland came to America. Raleigh Stott, the grandfather of Richard T., was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, who migrated from one of the Eastern states to the Middle West. Raleigh Stott's son, who was Richard T.'s father, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and Richard T. Stott was a soldier in the Civil War, so that with the possible exception of the Mexican War, members of this family have fought valiantly in behalf of individual and personal freedom in all of our great wars.

Richard T. Stott, who was born on November 14, 1842, in Jennings county, three miles south of Westport, is the son of Louis Lunsford and Sallie (Stewart) Stott, the former of whom was born in 1780 and who died in 1856. Louis Lunsford Stott had first married Miss Allen, who bore him eight children, all of whom are now deceased and the names of whom were as follow: Christopher, the father of Capt W. T. Stott, a former sheriff of Decatur county; Mrs. Hulda New, Allen, Mrs. Polly Griffin, Mrs. Mariah Kirtley, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, Frances Marian and Mrs. Sarah Jane Gaston. By the second marriage there were three chil-

dren: D. W., who is deceased; Richard T., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Susan Newsome, who lives at Azalia, Indiana.

After removing to Decatur from Bartholomew county, when Mr. Stott was four years old, his mother died, and he was taken by an uncle, Willis C. Stribbling, who lived near Sardinia, Decatur county, to be reared, together with a sister. Here he lived until he grew to manhood, attending, so far as possible, the pioneer country schools of the time and receiving a limited education. After the breaking out of the Civil War, Richard Stott was only nineteen years old. Nevertheless he enlisted on July 8, 1861, in Company H, Nineteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served three years, three months and eleven days. Having been assigned to the commissary department on detached service, he was under fire in nearly all of the battles and especially was on the firing line in the second battle of Bull Run, the battles of Fredericksburg, South Mountain, Antietam and Gettysburg, as well as the Wilderness campaign.

Returning home at the close of the Civil War, Mr. Stott began farming in Jackson township on rented land, and late in 1865 was married. During the earlier years of his married life he lived in Decatur and Bartholomew counties, spending two years in Illinois later on, in 1881 and 1882. For seven years he lived in Edinburg after his removal to Decatur county, in March, 1907. He now owns a farm of twenty acres adjoining Westport.

In 1865 Mr. Stott was married to Eliza Ann Chaille, who was born on April 3, 1844, in Jennings county, Indiana, near Butlerville, and who is the daughter of William D. and Hulda A. Chaille, the former of whom was a native of Indiana, born on December 26, 1814, and the latter of whom was born on February 19, 1806. William D. Chaille was the son of John and Jane (Duncan) Chaille, natives of Maryland, who came to Indiana after their marriage. A brother of Jane (Duncan) Chaille was a soldier in the Revolutionary army and was held a prisoner by the British for seven years.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Stott have six living children, as follow: Dora C., who lives at Richmond, Indiana, has one daughter, Leota, by his first wife, who was a Miss Davis; his present wife is Birdellia (Rose); Hulda Elizabeth is the wife of William A. Knight, who lives near Sardinia, and has four sons, James R., Wallace L., George Taylor and John F.; William Preston lives near Auburn in the state of Washington; Louis Eldridge, of Indianapolis, married Rosa Smeiser, and they have three children, Louis Graves, Beryl Taylor and Russell Payne; John Franklin, of Colorado, married Mary Wilds, and they have one child, Martha Emily;

James M., of Edinburg, married Ethel Russell, and they have one child, Loring Russell.

Politically, Mr. Stott is a Republican. He and his good wife are members of the Baptist church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men at Edinburg, and of the Knights of Pythias at Westport. He has filled all of the chairs in the Red Men's lodge. Mr. Stott is also a member of Fred Small Post No. 531, Grand Army of the Republic, at Westport.

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#### HUBER C. MOORE.

Perhaps no county in the state is on a sounder basis as regards its banking and financial affairs than is Decatur county. In the hands of safe, conservative men, the banks of the county are noted for their solidity and for the careful manner in which the money entrusted to their care is handled. For the most part, the men engaged in banking in this county have had special training for their work and the mere technical side of banking is conducted with a degree of accuracy and a proper regard for the most conservative forms of investment, insuring to depositors a feeling of safety. Among the banks of more recent origin in this county, few, if any, have made larger strides in public confidence than the Burney State Bank, of Burney, the pleasant village in Clay township, which in late years has made such rapid progress in industrial, commercial and civic development. This bank, which was opened for business on December 22, 1913, had a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars, and has enjoyed an unusual degree of success. Surrounded by rich farming territory, peopled by substantial stock raisers and shippers, the opportunities for modern banking methods were awaiting the coming of the gentlemen who organized the Burney bank and these opportunities have been promptly and properly utilized, the number of depositors of the bank growing from the very first day of the opening of the bank, until they now number more than four hundred and are increasing daily. The officers of this bank are as follow: William G. Smiley, president; John W. Corya, vice-president; Huber C. Moore, cashier; the other directors being John Gartin, Frank Alexander, W. F. McCullough.

Huber C. Moore was born at Morgan, Kentucky, in 1890, a son of James P. and Sarah J. (Green) Moore, both natives of Kentucky, the latter of whom was born in the city of Lexington, a daughter of John Green. Mrs. Moore died some years ago and Mr. Moore continues to make his home in

Kentucky, being one of the prominent and wealthy citizens of Pendleton county, that state. James P. Moore is one of the best-known bee breeders in the country, his apiary supplying a demand for queen bees in all parts of the world. He has been in the business of bee culture for the past twenty-five years and has been very successful, the variety of bees of which he makes a specialty having created a wonderful demand.

Huber C. Moore received his elementary education in the schools of Falmouth, Kentucky, following his graduation from the high school at that place with a course of one year at the Kentucky State University, after which he pursued a thorough course in a business college at Lexington. Thus equipped for a business career, Mr. Moore entered the employ of the Citizens State Bank, of Falmouth, Kentucky, as assistant cashier, remaining with this bank for two years, at the end of which time his services were secured by the Indiana National Bank, of Indianapolis, and he moved to the Indiana state capital, remaining with the Indiana National Bank at that place for a period of four years, at the end of which time his services were solicited as cashier of the newly organized bank at Burney, this county. Mr. Moore accepted this proffer and upon the opening of the Burney State Bank was installed as cashier, a position which he since has occupied, his skilled and efficient service having proved most satisfactory, not only to the directors of the bank, but to the customers of the same.

On December 25, 1910, Huber C. Moore was united in marriage to Olive Ruby Williams, of Whiteland, Indiana, daughter of Dr. Luke P. V. and Sarah Jane (Woollen) Williams, the former of whom is a native of Kentucky and the latter of whom is a native of Ohio. Dr. Luke P. V. Williams was born in 1862, son of Luke P. and Elizabeth P. (Simer) Williams, both natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was of Welsh descent and the latter of whom was of German descent. Sarah Jane Woollen was the daughter of John W. and Mary C. Woollen, who moved from Ohio to Kentucky in 1883, they also being of German descent.

Dr. Luke P. V. Williams, who is a direct descendant of Roger Williams, "that noble champion of religious liberty," of whom Milton thus sang, the founder of Rhode Island, who came to America from Wales in 1636, was a member of the last Kentucky constitutional convention, having represented the counties of Bath and Rowan in that historic gathering. He was reared in Kentucky and from the days of his young manhood took an active part in the affairs of his community. He is a man of tremendous energy; in fact, a veritable "human dynamo," as some of his friends characterize him. He early began to take a prominent part in Kentucky politics and,



besides the distinction of being a member of the constitutional convention, above noted, served as an elector on the Democratic ticket from his district in the second Cleveland campaign. Some years ago he moved to Indiana, locating at Whiteland, in Johnson county, where he organized the Whiteland National bank. He also was active in the organization of the Jonesville State Bank, of Jonesville, this state, and was one of the principal promoters of the organization of the Burney State Bank.

Mr. and Mrs. Moore are members of the Baptist church at Burney and are active in the good works of the community. Though comparatively recent additions to the society of that pleasant village, they have entered into the social life of the town with characteristic energy and are among the most enthusiastic promoters of the various and rapidly growing interests of the village. Mr. Moore is a Democrat and takes an intelligent and proper interest in the political affairs of the county, being an ardent advocate of all measures along the line of good government. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and at present is much interested in the plan which is being promoted for the erection of a fine new two-story Pythian hall in Burney. He is an enterprising and energetic young man and his native love for the intricacies of business and financial life has given him an interest in his life's work which rapidly is bringing him to the front as one of the most prominent young financiers of Decatur county, he having displayed an ability in this direction that has inspired in the breasts of his business associates the utmost confidence and respect, they having the highest regard for the ability he has displayed in conducting the difficult transactions which confront him in connection with his important position in the bank.

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#### HENRY CHRIS BOWMAN.

Henry Chris Bowman, an enterprising farmer of Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, who owns one hundred and sixty acres for which he has worked and for which he has himself paid, is a splendid type of the self-made American citizen and his career forcibly illustrates what industry, economy and good management may accomplish. There is no man living in Decatur county who deserves more personal credit for what he has accomplished than Mr. Bowman, since he has by his own hard toil and by his systematic and methodical saving, built up his own fortune and obtained for himself and his good wife all the comforts which they now enjoy.

Henry Chris Bowman was born on March 9, 1867, in Franklin county, Indiana, the son of Henry and Johannah (Thesin) Bowman, natives of Germany, who were married after coming to this country. Henry C. Bowman left home at the age of twenty-one and came to Decatur county, working for twelve years for William Warder Hamilton, a pioneer mule dealer of Decatur county. At the end of twelve years' hard toil, he had saved fifteen hundred dollars and out of this he paid one thousand dollars down on the farm he purchased at this time and used the other five hundred dollars to stock the farm. His father, who was born in 1825, was killed in 1870 while working as a carpenter on the Enochsburg church. He had come to America in 1841.

Henry, Sr., and Johannah Bowman had three children, Mary, who is deceased; Lena, who married Clem Rowling, a dairyman, who lives near Cincinnati, and Henry C., the subject of this sketch. After the death of Mr. Bowman, the mother married again, this time to Martin Frichtman, and they had eight children, George, who lives in Decatur county; John, of Washington township; Matthew, who lives on the Robinson farm; Kate, the wife of Joseph Mincke, of Cincinnati, who died in October, 1914; Lizzie, the wife of George Lampe, of Shelbyville; Sophronia, the wife of William Oberlein, of St. Louis; Rosa, who married Chester Luther, of Shelbyville, and Celia, of Indianapolis. The mother of these children died in Shelbyville, Indiana, at the age of seventy-eight years, in 1908.

At the time Henry Chris Bowman purchased his farm in Washington township, the farm was very much run down. He and his good wife lived in an old house on the place until they were able to erect a handsome, modern farm residence. The house sets back from the road and leading down to it is a large, well-kept farm. The barn, which is sixty-four by sixty feet, was built in 1908, and a corn-crib built in 1911 cost five hundred dollars. Altogether about eight thousand dollars has been spent in various kinds of improvements, including fencing and tiling. When Mr. Bowman first purchased the farm, he sold hogs at three dollars a hundred. He has had a hard time to get on in the world and has always been a hard worker. One of the secrets of his success, perhaps, is that he never sells any grain, but feeds all that he raises to hogs and cattle, selling a hundred head of hogs and from twelve to fifteen head of cattle every year.

On September 2, 1884, Mr. Bowman was married to Bridget Woods, who was born on December 4, 1864, in County Clare, Ireland, and who is the daughter of John and Bridget (Kerivan) Woods, who came to America in 1880 and located on a farm three miles from Zenas, Indiana. It is a matter of interest to note here the St. Denis's church was named after Denis Woods,

Mrs. Bowman's uncle, who gave ten acres of ground for the church. Mrs. Bowman's father died in 1889 and her mother in 1890, one year later. John and Bridget Woods had six children, Mrs. Marie Slattery, who lives in Ireland; John, who died in Jennings county, in 1913; Sarah, the wife of William Vansickle, of Kansas; Thomas, of near St. Denis, who married Margaret Duffy; Denis, who died in 1888, and Mrs. Bowman.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Bowman have been born four children, Florine, the wife of Samuel Ardery, of Washington township; John, who lives at home on the farm; Rosa, who died at the age of twenty-three years, on April 6, 1912, and Sophia Lillian, fourteen years of age, is a student in the Greensburg high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Bowman have at their command practically every convenience which is available to anyone who lives on the farm. They are fortunate in having at their disposal a natural gas well, located on the farm, and also an artesian well. They have most comfortable and convenient buildings located on magnificent grounds which are always well kept, and they themselves are the people who most deserve to enjoy these conveniences. Although Mr. Bowman owns an automobile along with the other comforts of life, yet he still works very hard and he and his good wife deserve great credit and praise for what they have accomplished. Genial and hospitable by nature, they are popular in the community where they reside. Mr. Bowman is a Democrat. The Bowman family are all members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Greensburg.

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#### JAMES B. THROP.

Settlement was just beginning in Decatur county, Indiana, in 1821, when Thomas Throp, a native of New Jersey, who had immigrated to Warren county, Ohio, in 1817, came on west to Decatur county, Indiana, and purchased the northeast one-quarter of section 23, township 11, range 10, comprising one hundred and sixty acres and located in what is now Fugit township. The deed for this farm, which was signed by James Monroe, was dated on December 17, 1821, and this worthy pioneer had previously entered the farm where a daughter, Margaret J., now resides, an entire section which he purchased at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. It was Thomas Throp, the father of the late James B. Throp, who established the family in Decatur county. When he came to Decatur county, the land was covered

with heavy timber, but he cleared a place for a home and later built a log cabin. His granddaughter, Margaret J. Throp, lives in the first brick house which he erected.

The late James B. Throp, who at the time of his death was one of the wealthiest farmers in Decatur county, owning six hundred and eighty acres of well-cultivated and fertile land, the son of Thomas and Ellen (Emily) Throp, was born on December 22, 1815, in Monmouth county, New Jersey, and died April 6, 1864. His father, who was born on October 17, 1776, was married on November 29, 1800, to Ellen Emily, who was born on November 30, 1784, and who died on August 12, 1859. They had ten children, William F., who was born on August 7, 1802; Bethany, December 15, 1804, who married Daniel Eden, of near Adams; Jane, March 4, 1807, who married James Freeman, a merchant of Greensburg; John L., March 15, 1810; Mary Ann, December 23, 1812, who married a Mr. Gilham; James B., the subject of this sketch; Eleanor, February 10, 1818, who married Granville Kindred; Margaret Finley, April 26, 1820, married a Mr. Clark; Charles C., December 6, 1822, and Wesley, November 29, 1825. All of these children erected homes in the vicinity of the old home on the Throp land.

The late James B. Throp was six years old when his parents moved from Warren county, Ohio, to Decatur county, Indiana, and when he was twelve years old, he moved with his parents to a brick mansion erected about 1827. In this house he lived continuously until his death, on April 6, 1884. Owning six hundred and eighty acres of land, during the latter years of his life, and being one of the most extensive farmers in Decatur county, he was naturally well known.

The wife of the late James B. Throp was Mary Kerrick, who was born near Fairfield, in Franklin county, Indiana, on August 15, 1830, and died in 1907, at the age of seventy-six. She was the daughter of Thomas and Phoebe Kerrick, of Loudoun county, Virginia. The Kerricks comprised an old family of the Old Dominion state and included many teachers and preachers. Mrs. Thomas Kerrick's mother was a prominent member of the Quaker church, Thomas Kerrick taught a subscription school in Franklin county and was paid partly in supplies and partly in cash. He had come from Virginia to Ohio, and finally to Franklin county, Indiana, in 1857. After purchasing land in Decatur county, he moved here. Rev. Nimrod Kerrick, a son of Thomas and the brother of Mrs. Throp, was for many years a prominent teacher and minister in Decatur county. He was the eldest child and the others were James, Walter, Armisted, Mrs. Mary Throp, Joanna, Hugh and Stephen, fourth child.



The late James B. Throp and wife had three children, Ella, the wife of Marshall Newhouse, who died in 1907; Phoebe A., the wife of George Wirt, who lives in Fugit township, and Margaret J., who lives on the old homestead and who owns one hundred and sixty acres of this farm and one hundred and eighty acres of her mother's original old home farm, a total of three hundred and forty acres. She is an active member of the Mt. Carmel Methodist Episcopal church.

Not only was James B. Throp a prominent farmer, but he was also prominent in fraternal and religious circles in his community, being a charter member of the Masonic lodge at Clarksburg and a regular attendant at the services of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he was an ardent Republican, who believed strongly in the principles of Abraham Lincoln and the principles of the party which Lincoln helped to found.

No volume purporting to set forth the historical annals of Decatur county would be complete which did not contain a record of the life and works of James B. Throp, a well-known citizen and farmer during his day and generation, one who had a large part in the pioneer development of this splendid county now in a high state of development. James B. Throp belonged to a family which has never failed to measure up to the opportunities and obligations of their time. The Throp family has performed well its duties in all the multifarious relations of human existence.

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#### WESLEY THROP.

The late Wesley Throp, of Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, belonged to one of the oldest families of the county, his father, Thomas Throp, a native of New Jersey, who had come to Warren county, Ohio, in 1817, having emigrated to Decatur county and entered a tract of land from the government in 1821, at a time when the settlement of Decatur was just beginning. Since 1821, therefore, a period of nearly a century, the Throp family have been prominent in the agricultural, political and civic life of this section, and in all of this period have contributed materially to the progress and prosperity of Decatur county. It was so with the original Thomas Throp, and also true of the family he left at the time of his death.

The late Wesley Throp, who, during his lifetime, was a well-known farmer of Fugit township, and who owned two hundred and forty acres of land at the time of his death, land which is now in the possession of a son, Bruce, and a daughter, Miss Jennie, himself was born on December 29, 1825,

the son of Thomas and Ellen (Emily) Throp, the former of whom was born on October 17, 1776, and who was married, November 29, 1800, to Ellen Emily, who was born on November 30, 1784, and who died on August 12, 1859. Of their ten children, William was born on August 7, 1802; Bethany, December 15, 1804, and married Daniel Heaton, of near Adams; Jane, March 4, 1807, married James Freeman, a merchant of Greensburg; John I., March 15, 1810; Mary Ann, December 23, 1812, and married, first, a Mr. Miller, and second, Talbert Gillam; James B. was an extensive farmer of Fugit township during his life, December 22, 1815, and married to Mary Kerrick, who was born on August 15, 1830, and who died in 1907, and died on April 6, 1884; Eleanor, February 10, 1818, and married Granville Kindred; Margaret Finley, April 26, 1820, and married Richard Clark; Charles C., December 6, 1822, married, first, Kate Roberts, and second, May Sneidiger, and Wesley, the subject of this sketch, November 29, 1825. All of the children erected homes in the vicinity of the old homestead and owned the Throp land.

The subject of this sketch, who was the youngest child born to his parents, was a native of Decatur county, born after the removal of the parents from Warren county, Ohio, to Indiana, and he spent all of his life in this section. After his marriage, in 1855, he and his wife began housekeeping in a log cabin on his farm, and a few years later removed to a new frame house which he built, now occupied by his daughter, Jennie, and his son, Bruce. Here the parents lived until their death. Eventually, he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land, adding to his original tract as he was able to do so, and this entire farm is still intact and is still owned by members of his family.

On September 4, 1855, Wesley Throp was married to Nancy M. Ardery, who was born on January 22, 1835, in Fugit township, the fifth child born to her parents, Thomas and Martha (McKee) Ardery, the former of whom was born in 1801, and who died in 1846. The latter was a daughter of Daniel McKee. Thomas and Martha (McKee) Ardery were natives of Kentucky, who were married in that state and who came with their family to Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, in 1830. Their children were Mrs. Jane Wallace Smith, deceased; Mrs. Mary Alexander Walters, deceased; Mrs. Martha Thomas Thomson, deceased; Mrs. Eliza Archibald Spear, of Rushville; David A., a well-known farmer of Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, and John William, who died in youth.

Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Throp, three are now deceased. The living children are Bruce, the eldest child, born on November 22, 1856, and lives on the old home farm with his sister, Jennie, April 4,

1873, the sixth child; Mattie, April 11, 1867, who was the fifth child in her parents' family, married William R. Pleak, and lives at Culpeper, Virginia. The deceased children are Luna, Omer and Bessie. Luna was born, February 4, 1859, and died on April 25, 1862; Omer, February 10, 1862, and died on October 7, 1863; Bessie, January 24, 1865, married William Schomper, and died on November 23, 1890. She left one son, Ralph, born on November 21, 1890. He lives in Tipton county, Indiana.

The father of all these children, who passed away quietly at his home in Fugt township on August 18, 1881, was a Republican in politics, and a member of the Presbyterian church at Kingston at the time of his death. He was also a charter member of Clarksburg Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons. His wife survived him many years, dying on February 3, 1914.

The only male descendant of the late Wesley Throp is his son, Bruce, who is unmarried, and who lives on the home farm with his sister, Miss Jennie. In fact, these two members of the family of Wesley Throp are the only ones who now reside in Decatur county. Miss Throp is a member of the Kingston Presbyterian church, and for many years has been active in church work. Wesley Throp was a man who was highly respected during his life, a man of honorable and humane impulses, kind to his family and cordial to his neighbors, one of the empire builders, whose work and labors live on, even though the author of the work and labors has passed away.

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#### MAX RUHL.

It is a distinction of no mean importance to have lived to become the oldest living native-born settler of the township of one's residence. This distinction belongs to the venerable Max Ruhl, a retired farmer of Marion township, now living in Millhousen, himself the son of native-born German parents, who settled in this township three-quarters of a century ago. While it is a considerable distinction to have attained the rank of the oldest living native-born citizen of a township, it is a further distinction to have lived an honorable and useful life in this community and this also belongs to the life works and career of Max Ruhl.

The venerable Max Ruhl, a pioneer citizen and farmer of Marion township, now living retired in Millhousen, was born on February 15, 1843, on a farm in this township in a log cabin, built by his father, the late Gehardt Ruhl. This farm, which now comprises two hundred acres all in one tract,

is a productive body of land, which, in recent years, has been maintained in a high state of cultivation. A magnificent house sets back a quarter of a mile from the main road and is reached by a well-kept driveway. Gerhardt Ruhl, who was born in Germany, came to America when a young man and, after working in Cincinnati and Franklin county for some time, in 1840 settled in Marion township, one mile north of Millhousen. It is literally true that his farm was cut out of the virgin forest. Here he cleared in all one hundred and twenty acres of land and, in the meantime, built a comfortable home. He passed away at the the age of sixty-six on February 8, 1875. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mary Ann Peters and to whom he was married at Oldenburg, Franklin county, died on March 10, 1872. They reared a family of ten children, seven of whom are now living and three deceased, Mrs. Caroline Fischer, who was the eldest; Christ, the fourth born, and Catherine, the youngest. The living children are, Max, the subject of this sketch; Joseph, who lives in Cincinnati; Mrs. Mary Henneker, who lives in Millhousen; John, of Minnesota; Grefor, who lives on a farm near Batesville; Adam, of Indianapolis, and Anthony, of Cleveland, Ohio.

When Max Ruhl was a young man, he worked in various parts of the country and, for a considerable period, was engaged in driving a team for a miller at Millhousen, Indiana. After his marriage, in 1872, he came back to the home farm and eventually purchased the interest of the other heirs to his father's and mother's estate in the home farm of one hundred and twenty acres and has since added eighty acres to the original tract, making in all two hundred acres. When we consider that practically the entire value of this two hundred acres has been created by its present owner and that he has had little assistance of anybody, we can understand his real work as a citizen, since this value could not have been created and this farm could not have been paid for and increased without hard and laborious efforts, unfailing determination, frugal living and careful management, all of which are distinctive marks of worthy citizenship. This venerable pioneer citizen deserves inexpressible credit for his many sturdy qualities of head and heart.

On January 7, 1872, he was married in the state of Ohio to Rosa Spander, who was born on February 15, 1850, and who has been the companion in all of his struggles, trials and tribulations of his early life and the triumphs and comforts of his later years.

In one respect Mr. and Mrs. Ruhl have been exceptionally fortunate, since every one of the six children born to them is still living, is married and rearing a family of his or her own. The names of the children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: Mary, William, John, Clara, Anna and Law-



rence. Mary married Joseph Zapfe, of Jennings county, and has eight children, Luella, Esther, Harry, William, Edward, Olivia, Lawrence and Raymond. William, who lives on a farm in Marion township, first married Rosa Herbert. After her death, he married a Miss Rosczell and has two children, Leo and Herbert. John, who lives in Kokomo, in Howard county, Indiana, married Julia Ann Zapfe and has two children, Esther and Albert; Clara became the wife of William Fry, of Marion township, and has three children, Alfred, Olivia and Ferdinand; Anna, who is the wife of Harry Leuken, of Marion township, has four children, Luella, Edna, Frank and Walter, and Lawrence, who married Josephine Blankman, lives on the home place.

Max Ruhl has never been an office seeker nor has he ever been active in the councils of the Democratic party, with which he is affiliated in Marion township, since he has always preferred to devote his time and attention to his home, his family and his farm. The Ruhl family are all members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhousen.

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#### WILLIAM HARRISON ISGRIGG.

In the industrial field there are few names better known in Decatur county than that which the reader notes above. One of the most prominent building contractors in southern Indiana, a form of activity to which he turned his attention very naturally, following the footsteps of his father, who was one of the best-known builders and decorators in this part of the state, Mr. Isgrigg has made a name for himself which must be enduring in this region, for the buildings which he has erected hereabout stand as impressive testimonials of the substantial character of his work.

The firm of W. H. Isgrigg & Son, for Mr. Isgrigg's son, Isaac J. Isgrigg, is associated with him, does a business of not less than one hundred thousand dollars to two hundred thousand dollars annually, employing a large number of workmen. This firm has made a specialty of erecting school buildings and is well known in this field, having in the last few years completed twelve high and grade schools. They have also completed many other buildings, such as churches, passenger stations, factories, etc. At the time this is being written, the firm is erecting the Young Men's Christian Association building in Greensburg.

Mr. Isgrigg also has done work in Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, Wichita, Colorado City, Ft. Scott, Dodge City and other cities in Iowa.

Michigan and Nebraska and in Arkansas City and other cities in the West and South. He started contracting in 1873, operating under the firm style of Isgrigg & Brown and later under the firm style of Isgrigg & Tumulty, then for a time he again operated alone, in 1904 taking his son, Isaac J. Isgrigg, into partnership, since which time the firm has been W. H. Isgrigg & Son and has been very successful.

William Harrison Isgrigg was born in the city of Greensburg, Decatur county, on April 16, 1853, the son of Jefferson and Martha Rebecca (Morris) Isgrigg, natives, respectively, of Ripley and Dearborn counties, this state. Jefferson Isgrigg, who was born on November 4, 1828, and died on July 8, 1859, was the son of Elijah Isgrigg, who came to America with his father, Daniel Isgrigg, from England when nine years of age and settled in Ripley county, this state. Jefferson Isgrigg was reared in Ripley county and learned the trade of plasterer and stucco worker, becoming very proficient in that line of work. On February 29, 1852, he married Martha Rebecca Morris, who was born six miles north of Lawrenceburg, in Dearborn county, on December 28, 1833, daughter of Isaac and Matilda (Fitzgerald) Morris, natives, respectively, of Wayne county, Virginia, and Newcastle, Kentucky. Matilda Fitzgerald was a daughter of Joseph Fitzgerald, a native of Ireland, who fought in the War of American Independence under General Wayne. Isaac Morris was a son of Amos and Rebecca (Tyler) Morris, the latter of whom was a sister of John Tyler, tenth President of the United States.

On March 1, 1853, a little more than a year after his marriage, Jefferson Isgrigg came to Greensburg to perform the ornamental work on the Decatur county court house, which was being erected at that time, and liked the town so well that he remained, making Greensburg his headquarters the rest of his life, although his work required him to travel extensively over the country. To Jefferson and Martha Rebecca (Morris) Isgrigg were born three children, Mrs. Nellie Throp, William Harrison, the subject of this sketch, and Sarah, who was born on January 26, 1856, and died on September 29, 1857.

William H. Isgrigg was educated in the schools of Greensburg and early devoted himself to the building trades, following in the footsteps of his father. With a view to learning the business literally from "the ground up" he began at an early age to learn the bricklayer's trade under William Dyer and Mr. J. W. Stites. At fourteen years of age he started to carrying the hod and served his apprenticeship of three years. Upon completing his trade, he started out as a journeyman workman, going westward through Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. After acquiring some very practical experience by this

method, he returned to Greensburg and engaged in contracting on his own account. He later was associated with others in the same line of business, as noted above, and in 1904 made his son, Isaac J. Isgrigg, a partner in the business, since which time the firm has been known as W. H. Isgrigg & Son, one of the most successful and energetic firms of building contractors in the state of Indiana.

On December 10, 1882, William Harrison Isgrigg was united in marriage to Vira Byrum, of this county, and to this union two children have been born, Isaac J., on December 5, 1883, who married Lela Gayette Burke and has two children, Lela Florine and William Shelton, and Mary, July 18, 1885, married Frank Hamilton, a well-known attorney, of Greensburg, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and has one child, a son, William Everett.

Mr. Isgrigg is a Republican and gives due attention to the political affairs of his home county. He is an active, public-spirited citizen and is deeply interested in the cause of good government, throwing his influence invariably in behalf of such measures as are designed to uplift the common cause of the people. He is a member of Greensburg Lodge No. 136, Free and Accepted Masons, and is warmly interested in the affairs of that order. Starting at the very bottom of the ladder, so to speak, Mr. Isgrigg has created for himself a very distinct position in the industrial life of this part of the state and is honored and respected by all who know him or with whom his extensive building operations bring him in contact.

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#### DR. CHARLES B. GROVER.

Very likely there are no physicians practicing in Decatur county who have had a more general experience in the practice of a profession than Dr. Charles B. Grover, the proprietor of the Grover Sanatorium, which is located in the Everhart block, city of Greensburg, and which is fitted up especially for treating patients in emergency cases. The hospital has twelve beds and two attendant nurses during all hours of the day and night. It is quite natural that Dr. Charles B. Grover should be a successful physician, since he is descended from a family of medical experts, both his grandfathers having been physicians in New Hampshire, the state of his birth.

Born and reared on a farm in the state of New Hampshire, Dr. Charles B. Grover is from every standpoint a self-made man. The parental home, which was located near the new Hampshire and Vermont state line, was the



CHARLES B. GROVER, M. D.





scene of his early labors and the place where his early ambitions began to shape themselves. He was born, May 21, 1851, the son of Andrew T. and Laura (Kimball) Grover, who were intelligent, progressive and broad-minded people, and successful farmers.

The career of Dr. Charles B. Grover is a striking example of the young man, who is led away from home ties and home influences successfully to seek his fortune in the outside world. At the age of seventeen years he left home, parents and friends, and eventually arrived in Boston, where for three years he worked at various odd jobs, doing any sort of work which presented itself. A man of splendid physique, and powerful build, able to perform the most arduous labor, after three years in Boston he was lured by the opportunities for work in the Northwest, and for two years was engaged in various kinds of labor in the state of Minnesota. In the meantime, however, he had devoted his spare time to the study of medicine, and had spent almost two years continuously in grounding himself in the fundamentals of medicine and surgery. When scarcely past twenty-two years of age he returned to his New Hampshire home, and was there engaged in the practice near his old home for seven years. During this period he was associated with a well-known physician of that community, Doctor Weeks. Subsequently, however, he went from New Hampshire to Chicago, and for a short time was there engaged in the practice with a Doctor Wilson. Later he practiced medicine for seven years at Frankfort, Indiana, with a Doctor Saylor, and during all of this period was improving his medical education and enlarging his information by home study. He had come to be known by the medical profession in the various communities where he had practiced as a profound student of medical science.

In 1894 Doctor Grover came to Decatur county, locating at Greensburg, and one year later established the Doctor Grover Sanatorium, which had met with a very satisfactory measure of success. He is known today as one of the hardest-working physicians in Decatur county, and one who practices medicine for the love of the work, rather than for the desire of gain. Patients are welcome to his office and to his sanatorium. No questions are asked regarding their ability to pay for the treatment they receive. Fitted up with the latest appliances, devised for present-day practice, the sanatorium is especially equipped for the successful treatment of tubercular patients, and many of them have been cured under Doctor Grover's care and treatment. A self-made and a self-educated man, not only in medicine, but along broad and general lines of information, his entire evening periods are now devoted to the acquisition of the latest knowledge available to practi-

tioners of the medical profession. Genial, whole-souled, and indifferent to pecuniary success, Dr. Charles B. Grover has established for himself a place in the hearts of the people of the county seat, which no one is likely very soon to take away. Earnest and sincere in his life's vocation, he deserves to be classed among the citizens of Decatur county as one of nature's own noblemen. Doctor Grover is not only a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, and of the American Association of Progressive Medicine, but formerly he was a member of the American Medical Association.

In 1909 Dr. Charles B. Grover was married to Ethel Clemons, daughter of Henry Clemons, a well-known citizen of Greensburg, to which union two children have been born, Gladys and Laura Margarette.

A member of the Christian church since 1885, Doctor Grover is one of the leading members of the Greensburg congregation, and takes a reverent interest in the affairs of the church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Faribault, Minnesota. A Republican in politics, he has been honored by the people of this county to election as county coroner of Decatur county, and served four years in this office, from 1908 to 1912. During his residence in Clinton county he was deputy coroner there for eight years.

Men of Doctor Grover's type are so few that a community which numbers one among its citizens is fortunate indeed. When his work is finished he will have what money cannot buy, the respect and esteem of this county.

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#### EDGAR EARL HITE.

The lawyer's training is vastly different now from what it was a generation ago. Today the best law schools are within the range of opportunity of every young man who aspires to the legal profession. Most of the younger lawyers have been trained efficiently in the standard law schools of the country. One of the well-known younger attorneys of Greensburg, Indiana, who enjoys the advantages of a splendid preparation for the law and a splendid training in the law, is Edgar Earl Hite.

Mr. Hite was born on October 3, 1881, on a farm near Clarksburg, in Decatur county, the son of Lewis E. and Elizabeth (Miller) Hite, the former of whom was born in 1849 in Rush county, and the latter of whom was born in 1851 in Fairfield, Franklin county, and who died in 1904. Lewis E. Hite

is the son of Nicholas Hite, who married Sarah Fisher. The latter was born in 1819 in Pennsylvania, and came overland with her parents from that state in 1830. She died in 1913. The former is a native of Virginia, and was an early settler in Rush county. Nicholas Hite, who was born at Staunton, Virginia, owned a large tract of splendid farming land on the Rush and Decatur county line. Edgar Earl Hite is one of three children born to his parents. The others are Albert M., a farmer, and Charles C., who is fifteen years old.

Edgar E. Hite, after having received a common school education, and having been graduated from the Clarksburg high school, spent the year 1900-01 in Butler College at Indianapolis, and then three months at the Indiana Law School at Indianapolis. Subsequently, he spent four years in Indiana University, from which he was graduated in 1905 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. From 1905 to 1906 Mr. Hite was associated with Judge Douglas Morris, now on the Indiana supreme court. Coming to Greensburg in October, 1907, he began the practice of law here, and served one year as deputy prosecuting attorney.

Since 1910 Mr. Hite has served as city attorney of Greensburg, having been elected by the city council of that year for four years. He was re-elected in 1914 for a term of four years. In 1904 he was a candidate for prosecuting attorney of Decatur and Bartholomew counties, and has always been active in politics. Recognized as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in this county, he served for two years as secretary of the Democratic central committee in Rush county, from 1905 to 1907. From 1908 to 1914 he was secretary of the Democratic central committee of Decatur county. He has also been secretary of the Democratic city committee since living in Greensburg.

Edgar E. Hite was married on October 19, 1908, to Eva M. Cartmel, daughter of Joseph A. and Susan Cartmel, formerly of Clarksburg. Mrs. Hite's father is now deceased. She is the mother of one daughter, Hazel Ione.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar E. Hite are members of the Christian church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons. He is at present chancellor commander of the Greensburg lodge, Knights of Pythias, and exalted ruler Greensburg Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

A young man of affable and agreeable personality, well learned in the law, Edgar E. Hite not only enjoys a comfortable practice in Decatur county, but is a highly respected citizen of the county, and one who enjoys to the fullest degree the confidence of the Decatur county people.



## GEORGE M. SCHEIDLER.

All success in this life represents progress, and those who laid down their burden in the dangerous days of the wilderness, planted the seeds that have, by careful pruning and scientific grafting, grown into trees whose fruits have benefited, not only the new country, for which they braved the perils of the seas to reach, but have reached far beyond our own shores, back to the homes of their native soil, and in fact over the entire civilized world, in many instances. For those of us who are interested in evolution and scientific progress, it is a matter of deep regret that we cannot know what will be accomplished along these lines after we are put away under our six feet of ground. The prosperous looking farm wagon of today bears but little resemblance to the oxen-drawn wagons of pioneer days.

George M. Scheidler, wagonmaker, of Marion township, was born on December 1, 1853, in Cincinnati. He is a son of John and Kunigunda (Steger) Scheidler. At the age of fifteen, he began to learn wagon making and repairing and machine repairs, and now conducts a general machine and repair shop at Millhousen, Marion township, which was established in 1862 by his father, and now is operated as the John Scheidler estate. He is a staunch Democrat, was elected trustee in 1908, and served six years. He was justice of the peace from 1878 to 1898, twenty consecutive years, and was notary public from 1898 to 1908, and is a member of St. Mary's church at Millhousen. His present farm covers two hundred acres of land in Marion township.

John Scheidler was born in Waldthurn, Bavaria, on June 19, 1826, and died on December 18, 1898. His wife, Kunigunda (Steger) Scheidler, was born on November 6, 1831, in Bavaria, Germany, where she was reared to young womanhood. He learned the wagon maker's trade in Germany, where he served three years as journeyman wagonwright. He came to America in 1849, and was married at Cincinnati in 1850, to Kunigunda Steger, who had come over with her parents. John came with his two sisters, Mrs. Hager, of Marion township, and Mrs. Anna Haubner, who lives near Cincinnati. In 1862 John came to Millhousen and established the business now carried on by his sons. Of their children there are only five who are now living, Adam died at the age of sixty years, at Earl Park; George, subject; John is a blacksmith at Millhousen; Catherine, Michael and Joseph died in infancy; Louis is a blacksmith; Joseph is in the employ of Herbert & Son, millers, at Millhousen; Herman is a farmer and lives in Ripley county; Edward, Francis and Anthony are all dead. John established his shop and dwelling in a little

farm building still standing in Millhousen. The business grew to considerable proportions, and in 1870 Mr. Scheidler erected a brick wagon, blacksmith and general machine repair shop, as well as a handsome brick dwelling, in the town, and in addition to this, he owned several pieces of valuable town property. The shop is yet the property of the estate. Mr. Scheidler is a member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhousen. He was drafted in the Civil War, but paid a substitute to take his place.

George M. Scheidler was twice married, first to Catharine Koelker, on June 4, 1878. She died on September 10, 1883, leaving one daughter, Olivia (Heidlage) Oldenburg, who has a son, Victor. Mr. Scheidler's second marriage, on May 26, 1885, was to Josephine Huber, who died in April, 1895, leaving three sons, namely: Paul L., Lawrence J., and Carl R. Paul L. is married to Clara, daughter of Joseph Herbert, and has two sons, Norbert and Urban. He is a farmer; Lawrence attended the Terre Haute College, and graduated in 1915, and married Anna Moorman. He is a teacher in the high school, and Carl R. is in a clothing store at Greensburg.

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#### MICHAEL HEGER.

Few farmers living in Marion township deserve greater credit for their achievements and their accomplishments than Michael Heger, the largest individual land owner in Marion township, and a man who has earned every dollar of his wealth by his own indomitable energy, frugal living and careful management of his agricultural interests. The Heger estate comprises four hundred and thirty-five acres of which one hundred and fifty acres is creek bottom, and very rich soil. The remainder of the land is fairly level, and is an ideal farm, taken as a whole, for mixed farming, and stock raising. As the passerby approaches Cobb's Fork there may be seen, overlooking the wide valley and situated on a prominent eminence, the Heger homestead, which is reached by a gravel driveway one-fourth of a mile from the road. The spacious lawn surrounding the house is bounded by a large stone wall built in 1911. This wall also surrounds the spacious barnyard, where there has been erected a large bank barn, forty-four by fifty feet, and which is thirty-two feet to the eaves. Equipped with two sets of buildings and this large acreage, the farm is admirably adapted to the purposes and methods of its owner and proprietor. Not only is he the largest individual landowner in Marion township, but he likewise takes a very high rank among the farmers

of this township in the number of head of live stock raised and sold on the farm.

Michael Heger was born on January 5, 1859, in Oldenburg, Franklin county, Indiana, the son of Michael and Josephine (Scheidler) Heger, the former of whom was born in 1826, and who died on January 26, 1899, and the latter of whom was born in 1831, and who now lives at Millhousen. Both natives of Germany, Michael Heger, Sr., after coming to America, settled in Cincinnati, and when a young man married there, and removed to Franklin county, where he engaged in farming and manufacturing brick. Michael, Jr., was a mere child when the family moved to the Millhousen neighborhood. He is one of a family of nine children born to his parents, of whom eight are herewith named. John lives in Decatur, Illinois; Michael is the subject of this sketch; Jacob is deceased; Joseph lives in Missouri; William lives in Oklahoma; Frank died in infancy; Mrs. Wanner lives in Millhousen, and Mrs. Margaret Hardeback lives in Kokomo, Indiana.

Patience it may be said is the keynote of Mr. Heger's success. Until he was thirty-two years old he lived on the old home farm of his parents, and then invested first in the S. T. Lowe farm on February 2, 1891. From his savings since that time he has invested in additional land until he now owns four hundred and thirty-five acres, the largest single farm in Marion township. And with the able assistance of his good wife and his family he has personally earned all the money which has been invested in this large tract of land.

On October 30, 1880, Michael Heger was married to Cassilda Witt, who was born on April 10, 1858, in Decatur, Illinois, and who is the daughter of Xavier and Marian Schott, natives of France, who died in Decatur, Illinois. They had been farmers by occupation. Mr. Heger journeyed to Decatur, Illinois, to meet and to marry his wife.

The parents of Michael Heger, Jr., having been natives of Germany, and the parents of Mrs. Heger having been natives of France, the Heger children combine the sturdy character of their Germany ancestry with the quick, adaptable and keen intelligence of their French ancestry on the maternal side. Mr. and Mrs. Heger have had six children, as follow: Mary Josephine, who was born on August 29, 1883, married William Cahill, of Indianapolis; Francis Xavier, who was born on December 6, 1884, lives at home on the farm; Mary Conacunda, who was born on September 16, 1886, married Albert Fry, a son of Henry Fry, and since their marriage in the fall of 1914 they have lived on a farm in Marion township; Mary Philomena,

who was born on October 16, 1888, died on July 11, 1891; John Anthony, December 27, 1890, lives at home; Ruth Cassilda, May 13, 1894, also lives at home.

Mr. Heger has been identified with the Democratic party during his entire life. The Heger family are members of St. Mary's Catholic church, and are active in the affairs of this denomination.

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### GEORGE S. PERRY.

George S. Perry, a well-known farmer of Washington township, who owns one hundred and fifty acres of land three miles east of Greensburg, which was entered in 1825 by his grandfather, was born on April 6, 1866, and is the son of Leonard and Cinderella (Boyce) Perry, the former a native of Kentucky, who had come with his father, Dan S. Perry, Sr., from Kentucky to Washington township, Decatur county, in 1824, and the latter of whom was a native of Indiana and reared in Decatur county. After settling in Decatur county, Dan S. Perry, Sr., cleared a small tract and erected a log cabin. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, who had moved from the ancestral home in Virginia to the state of Kentucky, and it was his father, Frederick Perry, who was a member of the personal body guard of General Washington during the Revolutionary War. Leonard Perry, who lived on the ancestral farm for sixty years, was born in 1824 and died in 1909. His wife, who died in 1873, left a family of nine children, all of whom except George S., are residents of Greensburg, Mrs. Dinah P. Craig; Will L. and Louisa; Squire D., farmer; Mrs. Chester Edkins; Allen M. and Pierce, deceased, and Dan S., Jr., the cashier of the Greensburg National Bank.

George S. Perry was born on the old home farm where he now lives and where both his father and his grandfather had lived and died. Educated in the McCoy schools, he has been engaged in farming the ancestral farm of the Perrys his whole life. He raises a great number of cattle and hogs and specializes in Poland China hogs and Shorthorn cattle.

On August 16, 1892, George S. Perry was married to Retta Brodbeck, who was born in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. They were married in Los Angeles, California, and have one child, Jean, who was born on January 16, 1895, and who is now attending a girls' seminary at Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Perry is a Democrat. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of



Elks. He is a worthy citizen of Decatur county, a capable farmer and one who has added new distinction to the family whose name he bears. Mr. and Mrs. Perry are popular socially in Washington township and in Greensburg, where they are so well known.

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### JOHN W. DEMOSS.

In every community may be found men who are especially deserving the respect and admiration of their neighbors on account of the severity of the struggle they have had for success and on account of the large measure of attainment which has attended their efforts. John W. DeMoss, the present sheriff of Decatur county, is a man who belongs to this class of citizens. Left an orphan at a tender age by the untimely death of his father while serving as a soldier in the Union army, he has had to make his own way in the world practically since he was ten years old. By the hardest kind of labor, by diligent and intelligent application to this labor, by economical living, consistent saving and careful management he has attained a position of high influence in this county, and no better evidence of the respect and admiration he enjoys can be cited than his election in 1912, and his re-election in 1914, to an office which was practically unsought.

John W. DeMoss was born on August 27, 1856, in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Benjamin Lewis and Harriet (Masters) DeMoss, the former of whom was born in 1832 and died in 1863, and the latter of whom was born in 1840 and died in 1901. Benjamin L. DeMoss, the son of William and Elizabeth DeMoss, early settlers in Decatur county, came with his parents to this county in the late thirties of the last century. His wife, who was the daughter of John and Hannah (Byrum) Masters, was a native of Kentucky, and her parents also settled in Decatur county, with a colony of citizens, in the early thirties.

Enlisting in the Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, at the breaking out of the Civil War, despite his physical weakness, because he believed it was his duty to go, Benjamin L. DeMoss became ill and died of pneumonia at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He left a widow and three children, John W., Edward Wallace, now deceased, and Belle, who married Andrew Martin, of Marion township. The widow and children had a hard time to get along after the death of the father and husband. With the kind assistance of the children's grandparents and the neighbors, however,



JOHN W. DEMOSS.



they were able to live. Eventually, the mother married again, her second husband being E. E. Goodwin, and to this second union one child was born, Cortez, who is a carpenter.

John W. DeMoss has always worked hard. He began earning his own way in the world at a tender age, taking employment in a stone quarry when ten years old, carrying water for the men, and gradually worked himself into a good position. He saved his money and, from doing ordinary day's work has bought and paid for two hundred acres of excellent land in Sand Creek township. A highly qualified and skillful superintendent during his employment at the Harris City quarries, he used not only his muscles, but his brain as well, and this combination of muscular and mental energy is largely responsible for his success. In 1904 he began devoting himself to farming, choosing this rather than the foremanship of the quarries.

On April 12, 1877, John W. DeMoss was married to Martha A. Jackson, of Sand Creek township, daughter of William B. and Amanda Jackson, who was born on October 4, 1856, in Kentucky, her parents having come to Indiana during the Civil War times. To this union three sons and three daughters have been born. Of these children, Benjamin, a farmer, is operating the home farm. He married Euphemia McFarland and they have six children. Mrs. Bird Borden lives in Sand Creek township and has three children. Her husband is foreman for the contracting firm of Craig & Son, of Greensburg. Mrs. Della Styers has four children. Her husband owns a farm in Sand Creek township. Grover, who married Lena Hamer, and has one child, is the deputy sheriff under his father; Mrs. Belle Vandiver lives on a farm in Jackson township, and has three children. Irdo is a farmer in Sand Creek township.

In the fall of 1912 Mr. DeMoss was elected sheriff of Decatur county, and was re-elected to the same office in the fall of 1914. The office was practically unsought and came to him largely as a reward for his service in the past in behalf of Democratic principles and Democratic candidates. Sheriff and Mrs. DeMoss and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic lodge, which he joined in 1896, and the Knights of Pythias, which he joined in 1887.

Many men who have the advantage of a good start in life achieve a large measure of success, but the man who starts with nothing and who acquires a comfortable home, a competence in life, and rears a family of children, is undoubtedly entitled to the very greatest praise. Sheriff John W. DeMoss is a man of this character. Naturally he is very popular in Decatur county where he is so well known.



## JOSEPH B. KITCHIN.

That there are enormous differences in the casual power exerted by different minds, depending on their place of vantage in the social system, is, of course, true. Most men merely echo the prevailing opinion or swell the general tide of passion. Even so, such men in the aggregate give to opinion its tendency to prevail, and to passion its tidal and overwhelming power. But the contribution of a single member of the mass is not comparable with that of the individual who occupies a place of prominence or authority. Such a mind operates at a source, coloring all that springs from it, or at a crucial point where every slight deflection is enormously magnified in the consequence. There are not a few such men of initiative in Decatur county, one of the best known of whom is Joseph B. Kitchin, secretary and treasurer of the Greensburg Water Company and a man of very wide influence for good in the community in which his whole life has been spent, the subject of the following interesting biographical review.

Joseph B. Kitchin was born on a farm in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, on December 29, 1850, the son of Thomas and Sarah L. (Boone) Kitchin, natives, respectively, of Ohio and Kentucky, the former of whom was a son of Joseph Kitchin, a native of Pennsylvania, and who migrated to Ohio, coming thence to this county at an early day in the settlement of this section of Indiana. Joseph Kitchin was a farmer and blacksmith as well as a pioneer minister of the Methodist church. He came to this county from Pennsylvania after his sons had established homes here. He was the father of five children, Thomas; John; Bryce, who is still living at the age of eighty-six, making his home at Arkansas City, Kansas; Sarah, who married Michael Shera, a merchant of the early days in Greensburg, and Maria, who married James Munns and became a pioneer settler in the state of Iowa.

Thomas Kitchin, who was born in Ohio in the year 1818, emigrated to Decatur county with his brothers in the year 1839 and settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of land, two miles south of Greensburg. To this farm he added, by purchase, until he had three hundred acres in one tract. He sold this and for a few years made his home in Greensburg, later moving to Lebanon, Indiana, where he resided for seven years, at the end of which time, in 1902, he returned to Greensburg, where his death occurred in 1904. Thomas Kitchin married Sarah Luffborough Boone, a daughter of Brumfield Boone, who was born in Kentucky, a son of Thomas Boone, a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, and to this union seven children were born, Rachel, the wife of Charles I. Ainsworth, of Greensburg; Joseph B., the

immediate subject of this sketch, and Frank B., formerly a farmer in a large way in this county, who lived in Greensburg until it became time to give his children the advantages of higher education, when, some years ago, he moved to Irvington, at Indianapolis, the seat of Butler College; the remaining four died in infancy.

The Boones are of Norman origin, the name at the time of the Norman invasion of England having been spelled Bohnn. The first family of the Bohnns to cross the channel into England settled in Lincolnshire and afterward some of the same name settled in Devonshire. It is from this latter family that the American Boones are descended. The Bohnn coat-of-arms was used before the fourteenth century, probably having been granted by an Anglo-Norman king. Not until the sixteenth century are the names Bohnn and Boone found in the same document. The first of this family to come to America was George Boone, who was born about 1670 at the old family seat, Brodwick, about eight miles from Exeter, England. There he married Mary Mauridge, by whom he had nine sons and two daughters. The entire family emigrated to America, landing at Philadelphia on October 10, 1717. George Boone purchased a tract of land in what is now Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and called it Exeter, in memory of the town in England from which he had emigrated. In this review it will be necessary to name but two of the sons born to the union of George and Mary (Mauridge) Boone, Joseph and Squire. Joseph Boone was the father of Thomas Boone, Mr. Kitchin's Revolutionary ancestor, and Squire Boone was the father of Daniel Boone, thus establishing the relationship of Thomas Boone and the immortal Daniel Boone, showing indeed that they were first cousins.

Thomas Boone served in the Revolutionary War as a private in Capt. James Murray's company of the Tenth Battalion of Lancaster County Militia, state of Pennsylvania, Robert Elder, colonel; having enlisted on April 12, 1781. He was born in the town of Reading, Pennsylvania, on August 21, 1759, and married Susannah Brumfield, a Pennsylvania Quakeress, being compelled to elope with her on account of the objections raised by the Quakers at that time to any of their number marrying outside the faith. After the war, he moved to Upper Sandusky, Ohio, where he lived for a short time, after which he moved to Limestone, which is now Maysville, Kentucky, and in the year 1791 moved to Bryant's Station, entering the blockhouse there, where Brumfield Boone was born in the same year. In 1794 Thomas Boone moved to a point on the little Miami river, just above Cincinnati, where, for a time, he operated a tavern, later going to Cincinnati. The Boone and Kitchin families still have old deeds showing Thomas Boone's ownership of property

in what is now the Bay street section of Cincinnati and some of the property owned by him is still in the possession of the family. In 1807 Thomas Boone moved to Oxford, Ohio, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, their bodies now resting in the old Baptist cemetery, four and one-half miles south and a little west of Oxford, near what was the old Boone farm.

Joseph Brumfield Kitchin was reared on the home farm in Washington township, this county, receiving his education in the home schools. Upon reaching manhood's estate he began farming on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in the same township, near the town of Greensburg. He prospered and as the years passed he increased his land holdings and also became actively interested in other enterprises. He now owns two valuable farms near Greensburg and has other extensive investments. Mr. Kitchin aided in the organization of the Greensburg National Bank in 1900 and for five years served this excellent financial institution in the capacity of cashier, still retaining a directorship in the bank. He is president of the Workingmen's Building and Loan Association and for some time has been secretary and treasurer of the Greensburg Water Company.

On July 26, 1871, Joseph Brumfield Kitchin was united in marriage with Nancy Elmira Robbins, a daughter of John E. and Nancy (Hunter) Robbins, a member of one of the oldest and most prominent families in Decatur county. Mrs. Kitchin also is of Revolutionary descent, tracing from William Robbins, a distinguished soldier in the war which secured to America the independence for which the patriots fought seven long years. William Robbins married Bethiah Vichery, who was born on December 1, 1760, and to this union there were born three children, Abel, Charity and Benjamin. The father of these children was killed in the Revolutionary War soon after enlisting in the service of the patriots and his widow subsequently married the second William Robbins, the scene of the wedding being in Guilford county, North Carolina. To this latter union there were born nine children, namely: Elizabeth, on February 5, 1788; Marmaduke and John, twins, May 15, 1789; Polly, April 9, 1791; Nathaniel, April 5, 1793; John, February 8, 1795; William, August 6, 1797, and Dosha, May 20, 1804.

The father of the children above named was born in Randolph county, North Carolina, on October 21, 1761, and in October, 1777, when sixteen years of age, enlisted as a private in the army of General Washington, remaining in the service until August, 1781, during which time he had but one captain, Capt. Joseph Clark, and two colonels, Colonel Dugan and Col. Anthony Sharp. Following the war, William Robbins moved from Virginia to Kentucky and in 1821 again moved, this time locating in Decatur county, Indiana.

He entered a farm from the government, about nine and one-half miles south of Greensburg, where, amid the hills, he carved a home out of the virgin forest. The first home which he set up for his family consisted of but one room, the house being constructed of hewed logs, to which was attached a lean-to, in which the family loom was set up. Presently he also erected a rude blacksmith shop of logs nearby and thus life in the new country was begun, the wife busy with her loom and other household duties and the husband busy in his smithy. On September 11, 1834, thirteen years after settling in this county, William Robbins died, his body being laid away in Mt. Pleasant cemetery, about six miles south of Greensburg.

The third William Robbins mentioned in this sketch, son of above, was born in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia on August 6, 1797, as noted above, and was taken by his parents to Henry county, Kentucky, to which point they emigrated. When, in the year 1821, they moved to the New Purchase, the name applied to that part of the new state in which they settled, William Robbins, then twenty-four years of age, accompanied them and selected a site for a farm for himself about one and one-half miles north of that selected by his parents. In 1822 he returned to Kentucky, where he married Eleanor Anderson, one of the pioneer belles of the neighborhood in which he formerly had lived. With his bride at his side, he returned to his new Indiana home and during that year his three sisters, together with his brothers, John and Nathaniel, settled in the same vicinity. In a short time other relatives of the Robbins family arrived in the same township and the Robbinses became prominent, both numerically and in the matter of the large influence they exerted in the early affairs of that part of the county, Nathaniel Robbins being the first justice of the peace in Sand Creek township.

William and Eleanor Robbins lived on the farm originally selected as their home during the remainder of their days, he dying on February 3, 1866, his widow surviving him until the year 1872. To William and Eleanor (Anderson) Robbins were born four children, namely: Sarilda, in October, 1823, who married William Styers; John E., February 20, 1825, who married Nancy Hunter; James G., June 10, 1827, married Elmira Stout, and Merrit H., in 1829, married Janet Gilchrist.

John E. Robbins remained on the paternal farm until November 7, 1844, the date of his marriage with Nancy Hunter, daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Hunter, at which time the young couple began housekeeping on a farm of forty acres given them by the bridegroom's father. They remained on this farm until February 15, 1848, by which time they had accumulated enough to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land one mile south of



Greensburg, on which place they made their home the remainder of their lives. To this purchase they subsequently added large tracts of land and other valuable interests, until their possessions consisted of about three thousand acres of land in Decatur county and two hundred and forty acres in Bartholomew county, besides personal property of large value. In 1882 John E. Robbins helped organize the Third National Bank of Greensburg, of which he was director and president until his death. Under his direction and management this bank grew to be one of the most substantial and successful institutions in the county. Mr. Robbins died on July 22, 1896. His widow, who had shared all his interests and labor, proving in all things a most willing and efficient helpmeet, continued to live on the home farm until her long and useful life closed on May 2, 1905.

To John E. and Nancy (Hunter) Robbins were born fourteen children, namely: Elizabeth Ellen, deceased; Charlotte Adaline died on February 11, 1869; Sarilda Ruth, who married H. K. Smiley; Minerva Jane, who married Archibald Gilchrist; Nancy Elmira, who married J. B. Kitchin; Sarah Jane, deceased; William Hunter, who married Cora Sefton; Clara Alinda, who married Frank B. Kitchin; Olive Ida, who married Robert McCoy; John Everman, who married Louisa Elder; Frank Rosco, who married Kate Sefton; Eliza Angeline, who married Will Q. Elder, and two who died in infancy.

To Joseph Brumfield and Nancy Elmira (Robbins) Kitchin were born three children, Maud Elmira, on October 18, 1872, who married Charles H. Johnston, of the firm of W. H. Robbins & Company, wholesale grocers, of Greensburg, to which union four children have been born, Mildred Elmira, Jo Charles, Marjorie and Thomas Ludlow; Otta Pearl, September 16, 1874, who married Charles Woodfill, of Greensburg, and has two children, daughters, Helen and Sarah, and Hal T., August 3, 1878, who married Iva Lanham and has one child, a son, Hal Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Kitchin are members of the Centenary Methodist church, in the various beneficences of which they always have taken an active interest and their children were reared in that faith. Mr. Kitchin is a member of the Greensburg lodge of Elks. His large business and financial interests in and about Greensburg give to his position in that community a degree of stability second to none in the county and he naturally exerts a wide influence in the affairs of the community. Both he and Mrs. Kitchin are deeply concerned in all matters having to do with the general social welfare of the city and county and are held in the highest regard by all. Mrs. Kitchin and her daughters are members of the society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and are regarded as among the leaders in the social life of the city of Greensburg, their active influence ever being exerted in behalf of all move-

ments looking to the general betterment of conditions in this section of the state. Mrs. Kitchin's daughters are eligible to the Daughters of the American Revolution from three different ways. Hal T. is a Mason and has filled all chairs in the local lodge, and is a Knight Templar and a member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Indianapolis.

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### HENRY FRY.

Reared under primitive conditions, and of German parentage, whose ancestors knew Indiana while the Indians still roamed her forests, Mr. Fry has advanced, step by step, making capital of every opportunity that crossed his pathway, until now, he stands at the top step of his desires, and, wisely enough, he knew when to stop and enjoy the fruits of his long years of labor. He has put aside enough of this world's goods to enable himself and wife to live in ease and comfort the remainder of their lives, in addition to which he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has been in a position to provide his own with the means whereby they have escaped the many struggles experienced by himself as a young man.

Henry Fry, a farmer of Millhousen, Marion township, Decatur county, was born on April 17, 1841, at Cincinnati, and is a son of John and Mary (Barger) Fry. Mr. Fry was reared in a log cabin, under very trying conditions and times, and was but nine years old when his mother died. He began life as a young man, with forty acres of land, which he soon increased to one hundred and eighty acres. This he sold, in 1904, to his sons, and moved to Millhousen, where he bought four acres of land, containing a good brick house, where he now lives. In 1865 Mr. Fry enlisted in Company C, Thirteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, served until the close of the war, and did general duty at Goldsboro, Raleigh, and throughout the South after the war. His political policies are strongly Democratic, and he is a members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhousen.

John and Mary Fry were natives of Germany. They came out to the Millhousen settlement in 1841, and chopped a home from the woods, where they both died. After the death of his first wife (mother of our subject), Mr. Fry later was married to a Mrs. Moggert.

Henry Fry was united in marriage, in 1870, to Theresa Verekamp, who was born in 1851, on a farm in Marion township. She is a daughter of Frank and Theresa (Snyder) Verekamp, natives of Germany, who came at an early day to settle in Marion township, whose children were Frank,

deceased; John, deceased; Mrs. Anna Rolfes lives in Marion township, and has six children, Nora, Hilda, Martin, Harry, Richard and Clarence; George is a farmer in Marion township, and has been twice married. His first wife was Lucy Herbert, and his second wife was Mrs. Leda (Hutterbach) Herbert, by whom he has had five children, Virgie, Walter, Raymond, Sylvia and Herbert; William was married to Clara Ruhl, and lives on the home farm. They have three children, Alvin, Lillian and Ferdinand; Edward was united in marriage to Rosa Lucken. They live in Marion township, and have four sons, Oscar, Oswald, Lawrence and Edmund; Mrs. Laura Kroeger lives in Marion township and has two sons, Maurice and Charles.

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#### HENRY H. LOGAN.

During nearly three-quarters of a century of residence in Decatur county, Indiana, various members of the Logan family have occupied many positions of trust and responsibility in the political life of this county. Not only is the Logan family one of the older families of this section, but they have always been noted for their high ideals, sterling integrity and large business capacity. Many of the members of the family have been farmers and their influence has greatly enriched the agricultural life of this county, making it wholesome and progressive, honorable and independent. In a material way, the earlier members of the family helped to clear the forest and drain the swamps. They had a most commendable part in the transformation of a wild and unbroken forest into fields of growing grain which now yield abundant harvests. Henry H. Logan, the eldest son of the founder of the Logan family in Decatur county, has himself had a most interesting and fruitful part in the development of this splendid community.

Born on September 17, 1841, in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, Henry H. Logan was only one year and three months old when brought here by his father and mother, Samuel H. and Millie (Hice) Logan, in 1843. Arriving in Decatur county in April of 1843, Samuel H. Logan settled on land entered from the government by his father, John Logan, the farm now occupied and owned by Will W. Logan, a younger brother of Henry H. Samuel H. Logan, a native of Indiana county, Pennsylvania, born on February 1, 1819, was the son of John and Isabel (Graham) Logan, who came to America from Ireland late in the eighteenth century and located in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, where they spent the remainder of their lives.



MR. AND MRS. HENRY H. LOGAN.





They had four children: Samuel H., Mrs. Hanna Hice, born on June 17, 1822; Mrs. Margaret Elliot, February 20, 1825, and Mrs. Ann Baker, July 12, 1827. The last named lives four miles from Greensburg, in this county.

Three years before coming to Decatur county, on November 26, 1840, Samuel H. Logan was married to Millie Hice, a native of New Jersey, born on October 20, 1818, the daughter of Henry Hice, who had come to America from Germany. Shortly after their marriage, or in 1843, they came to Decatur county. Samuel H. Logan was a clear-headed man, enterprising, public-spirited and an excellent farmer, and became one of the heaviest land holders in Decatur county. For some time he served his fellow citizens efficiently as a member of the board of county commissioners, and was honored and respected by the citizens of this community at the time of his death on October 19, 1904. His wife had died a quarter of a century previously, on October 15, 1879.

To Samuel H. and Millie (Hice) Logan ten children were born, of whom Henry H. is the eldest. The others are Isabella G., born on September 22, 1843, who is the widow of Samuel Applegate and resides in Greensburg; Mary S., November 26, 1845, the widow of Will Murray, who resides in Nevada, Missouri; John B., October 8, 1847, who is a traveling salesman and lives at Indianapolis; William W., who is a well-known farmer of Decatur county and lives on the old homestead; Sarah, October 19, 1852, the widow of Joseph Ketchum, lives in Cincinnati; Marine R., March 6, 1855, who died on May 22, 1885; Samuel, September 16, 1857, died on April 18, 1893; Emma J., August 20, 1860, died on August 16, 1865, and George M., September 13, 1862, who is the general agent of the International Harvester Company at Richmond, Indiana.

Like other members of the family, Henry H. Logan received the rudiments of an education in the local schools of Decatur county, principally at the Tarkington school house, which was located on his father's farm. His youth was not especially eventful but it may be said here that he performed with diligence and a willing spirit the tasks that fell to his lot as a young man in a pioneer community. He lived on the old homestead with his parents until his marriage and afterward moved to a farm of eighty acres given to him by his father. Later he purchased an additional eighty acres from his father. As a matter of fact, Mr. Logan has lived on the farm he now occupies, comprising one hundred and sixty acres in Washington township, since October 10, 1865, a period of just a half century. From time to time he has made additions and repairs to the houses,

barns, and outbuildings located on the farm and now owns a completely modernized residence, the equal of any in this community.

Henry H. Logan was married on the same date that he moved to his present farm, October 10, 1865, to Eliza Sidwell, who was born near Greensburg, in this county, on December 11, 1844, the daughter of Hugh and Eliza (English) Sidwell, early settlers of Decatur county. On October 10, 1915, Mr. and Mrs. Logan will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. They have reared several children, among whom is a nephew, Forest M., who lived with them from the time he was five years old. He was graduated from Purdue University and later attended the University of Illinois at Champaign, completing a course in civil engineering, and is now engaged in the practice of this profession in Chicago. He married Rein Robertson, of Lafayette, and they have one child, Alice Marie, who is eight years old.

For many years Henry H. Logan has been prominent in Masonic circles in Greensburg, being a member of Greensburg Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons. Both Mr. and Mrs. Logan are members of the Presbyterian church and he is a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Logan spent the winter of 1914-15 in Florida, returning in the early spring, thoroughly imbued with the idea that "there is no place like home," and that Indiana, good old Hoosierdom, is the best place in the universe, after all.

Few farmers in this county are better or more favorably known than Henry H. Logan, and few have done more than he to win the confidence and esteem of the people of this county. By careful regard for the rights of his neighbors and friends, he has maintained cordial relations with the people of Decatur county and is today one of its most popular farmers and citizens.

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#### JACOB C. GLASS, M. D.

Physician, farmer, postmaster and ex-school teacher, Jacob C. Glass, M. D., of Millhousen, Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, is one of the most versatile men in his community. A product of Decatur county soil, he had always been a successful farmer and at the present time, owns a splendid farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the township of his residence. For eleven years a teacher in the public schools of Decatur county, during this period of his life, he was known as one of the foremost educators in the county. Since 1907 he has been engaged in the practice of medicine.

first in the state of Arkansas and later in Decatur county. Postmaster since 1908, he has filled this important office with credit to himself and has attained a high mark of proficiency in the management of the postal business. His career is a notable exception to the philosophy of the old saw, since he has not only followed many occupations, but he has and is following them with efficiency. His father and grandfather, having served in the Civil War, it may be truthfully said that he comes from militant and patriotic stock, and from a family which has been well known in this county for many years.

Dr. Jacob C. Glass, physician and surgeon of Millhousen, Indiana, was born on September 21, 1873, in Decatur county on the old Glass homestead in Adams township, the son of John T. and Susan Jane (Grant) Glass, the former of whom was a native of Decatur county, born on February 14, 1845, and who now resides in Greensburg, Indiana. A private soldier in Company E, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, John T. Glass served more than three years in the Civil War and, attached to the Army of the Cumberland, he fought at Stone's River, Chattanooga, Kenesaw Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain, also in the beginning of the Atlanta campaign, when he was transferred to another part of the army to meet Beauregard at Knoxville. His father, William A. Glass, a native of Ireland, born in 1832 and died in 1900, came to America when a young man. He was a soldier in the Sixty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served with distinction during a greater part of the war.

Reared on a farm in Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, Dr. Jacob C. Glass was educated in the common schools of the township and in the Central Normal College at Danville, Indiana. In the earlier years of his life, he taught school for eleven years in Decatur county and subsequently, when he decided to study medicine, took the first year of his work in the Illinois Medical College at Chicago. His second, third and fourth years' work were taken at Kentucky University at Louisville, at which time he was graduated from that institution with high honors. For some time after his graduation, he practiced at Cotton Plant, Arkansas, having passed the Arkansas medical registration examination three months before his graduation. After one year's practice in the South, he settled at Millhousen, where he has been engaged continuously in the practice of his profession since 1908. Professionally, he is a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, the Indiana State and the American Associations, a prominent member in all of these organizations, one who not only attends, but takes a prominent part in their proceedings.

In 1908 Dr. Glass was appointed postmaster at Millhousen and took



charge of this office on December 15, of that year. He has served continuously as postmaster since 1908, a period of seven years. For some time he has owned several farms in Marion township and devotes considerable attention to supervising the work on the farm.

In 1895 Dr. Jacob C. Glass was married to Ida May Crist, of Adams, the daughter of Abram and Kiturah Crist, who were early settlers in Decatur county, the former coming here from Franklin county on horse-back with only a small supply of pewter spoons and pie pans, the nucleus of the home which he established in the Decatur county wilderness.

Dr. and Mrs. Jacob C. Glass are members of the Presbyterian church, which is the family faith. Fraternally, he is prominent in Decatur county, being a member of seven fraternal societies. He is a member of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 341, at Burney; the Adams lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; the Greensburg lodge, Free and Accepted Masons; the Fraternal Order of Eagles; the Improved Order of Red Men; the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Loyal Order of Moose.

Dr. Jacob C. Glass is a man of splendid professional attainments, and, being equipped with strong intellectual powers and native aggressive attainments, naturally has become a leader in all public movements in Marion township. He is a man who has never been known to waver in the slightest degree from the strict code of ethics maintained by the medical profession and who, in private life, has been quite as strict in the code of principles governing his relations with the public. He is not only a well-meaning citizen, but he is a man who is capable of carrying that perquisite into effect. Naturally, he is popular in Marion township, where he enjoys the confidence and esteem of a large number of friends.

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### JESSE H. STYERS.

The late Jesse H. Styers, who, until his death, on January 15, 1910, was one of the most prominent farmers and citizens of Decatur county, owed his large success in life to the fact that he was generally willing and able to do the right thing at the right time. A man of more than average attainment, he knew the tendency of farm values during his life, and from time to time invested his savings and profits in land. A man of large vision and one who knew how to get the very largest returns from an acre of land, he naturally became wealthy, and at the time of his death owned seven hundred and

twenty acres of land in this county. But the greatness of the late Jesse H. Styers, as a man and a citizen, did not consist wholly in his prosperous career as a farmer. He took a commendable interest in politics and served six years as a member of the Decatur county board of commissioners. In this office he was able to perform valuable service in behalf of public improvements, and his vote and his influence could always be depended upon in their behalf. He was not only a successful financier and a capable and efficient manager, but he was a man of scrupulous integrity, whose relations with his fellows was founded upon an inflexible and unyielding determination to do the right thing. He had at the time of his death many friends in Decatur county. Few men have passed away in recent years whose loss has been more generally mourned than this honored citizen of Sand Creek township.

Jesse H. Styers, who was born on February 4, 1844, and died on January 15, 1910, at the age of sixty-six years, was born in Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of William and Sarilda (Robbins) Styers, the former of whom a native of North Carolina, came to Greensburg when a young man and here engaged in carriage making, at which he worked for several years. Without friends and without resources he saved his money and, subsequently, at the time of his marriage, was able to purchase a small farm south of the city. There he engaged in the dairy business, and later extended his operations to general farming, in which he was very successful. He was able to give each of his children a farm and a good start on the highway of life. A prominent citizen during his life, he was a man of especially quiet and unassuming manner, a man who had an enviable reputation in the community where he lived. His home farm was just across the road from the farm owned by Frank and John E. Robbins.

William and Sarilda (Robbins) Styers had five children, three of whom, including Jesse H., are now deceased. William G. died lately in Sand Creek township; Evermont died on the old homestead, and his widow is now living in Greensburg with Mrs. Privit; Evermont left one daughter, Mrs. Earl Robbins, at the time of his death; Charles, the last son, lives in Indianapolis.

The mother of the late Jesse H. Styers, who, before her marriage to William Styers, was Sarilda Robbins, the daughter of William and Eleanor (Anderson) Robbins, was born in 1823. Her father, William Robbins, was born in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia, and was taken by his parents to Henry county, and later to Indiana in 1821. At the time of the removal to Indiana, William Robbins was twenty-four years old. He selected a site for a home for himself about one and one-half mile north of his father's home in Decatur county, and the next year returned to Kentucky and was married to

Eleanor Anderson, of that state. Upon their return to Indiana, they were accompanied by his three sisters and two brothers, John and Nathaniel, who settled in the same vicinity. A short time later, other relatives of the Robbins family came to the same township, which family became prominent, both as to numbers and influence, in the early affairs of the county. William and Eleanor Robbins lived on the farm originally selected as their home, during the remainder of their lives. They had four children, of whom Mr. Styers' mother was the eldest. The other three children were, John K., born on February 20, 1825, who married Nancy O. Hunter; James G., June 10, 1827, and who married Elmira Stout, and Holman, in 1829, who married Jeannette Gilchrist. William Robbins died on February 3, 1868, and his wife four years later.

Of the earlier history of the Robbins family, it may be said that the family begins with Bethiah Vickery, who was born on December 1, 1760, and who married William Robbins. They had three children, Albe, Charity and Benjamin. William Robbins was killed in the Revolutionary War soon after enlisting, and his widow married a second William Robbins in Guilford county, North Carolina. This couple had the following children: Marmaduke and Jacob, born on May 15, 1783; Elizabeth, February 5, 1788; Polly, April 9, 1791; Nathaniel, April 5, 1793; John, February 8, 1795; William, August 6, 1797, and Dosha, May 20, 1804. William Robbins, the second husband of Bethiah Vickery, was born on October 21, 1761, in Randolph county, North Carolina. In October, 1777, when sixteen years of age, he enlisted in the Revolutionary army, serving until 1781 under Capt. Joseph Clark and Colonel Dugan and Col. Anthony Sharp. He left Virginia for Henry county, Kentucky, and in 1821 came to Decatur county, settling nine and one-half miles south of Greensburg, where he made a home among the timbered hills. Trees were cleared away and a new log house of one room was erected with a shed, in which was built a room for carpet weaving and the weaving of many kinds of cloth. On September 11, 1834, William Robbins passed away and was buried at Mt. Pleasant cemetery. The third William Robbins, heretofore referred to in the children born to the second William Robbins and Bethiah Vickery, was the father of Mrs. Sarilda (Robbins) Styers.

The late Jesse H. Styers was married in 1872 to Emma C. Blume, who was born on February 28, 1844, near Hope, in Bartholomew county, and who is the daughter of Calvin and Maria (Warner) Blume, natives of North Carolina and Ohio, respectively. The father, who was born in 1824, came to Indiana with his father, John Philip Blume, in 1834. John Philip Blume was of German ancestry and had only fifty cents when he came to Bartholomew

county. He brought all his belongings in a covered wagon. During his life he accumulated a farm of two hundred acres of well-improved land. He was many years a justice of the peace in Bartholomew county. Calvin Blume was also a prosperous farmer and succeeded quite as well as his father before him. He had four children by his marriage to Maria Warner, two of whom are living and two of whom are deceased. Rufus, the first born, and Albert, the youngest, are deceased. Mrs. Emma C. Styers and Mrs. Mary Seiss are living. The latter is a resident of Missouri.

After their marriage, in 1872, Mr. and Mrs. Styers settled on the Styers farm, south of Greensburg, where they lived for one year and later removed to a farm of three hundred and ten acres in Sand Creek township, which farm is located in a beautiful section of Decatur county, where the ground is slightly rolling and where some of the land is very rich. There were very few improvements upon this property when Mr. and Mrs. Styers purchased it. Subsequently, they bought another farm and still other land until he owned, at the time of his death, seven hundred acres of land.

Mr. and Mrs. Styers had six children, three of whom are deceased and three of whom are still living. John died in September, 1914, leaving a widow and three children, Vera May, Carson and Maletta, lived on the home farm; George H., who lives on a farm given him by his father, has four children, Howard, Harold, Lawrence and Louise; Mrs. Hannah Moore, the wife of Delgar Moore, near Forest Hill, in Jackson township, has two children, Bernice and Arthur; Mrs. Nellie McGee lives near the Liberty church; and two of the Styers children, Loyley and Alpha, died in infancy. Before his death, Mr. Styers gave to each of his sons a farm of two hundred acres and reserved a three-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm for the daughters.

The late Jesse H. Styers, at the age of eighteen, enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served for eighteen months as a soldier in the Civil War. At the time of his death he was a member of the Pap Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic. A Republican in political affiliations, he served six years as county commissioner. He was a member of the Baptist church, and loyal and active in this faith. For many years he was a deacon of the First church at Greensburg.

The late Jesse H. Styers was a man of large vision and of wonderful capacity as a farmer, and of wide influence in the community where he lived. He was a man who was affectionately devoted to the interests, welfare and comfort of his wife and family. His first interest was his home and his family, and next to these was the conscientious performance of his duty as a citizen.



## JOHN W. HOLCOMB.

Among the ablest of the younger members of the Indiana bar, is John W. Holcomb, an attorney of Westport, Indiana. With the blood of Revolutionary ancestry coursing through his veins, and the overshadowing influence of the Puritanic thought of his progenitors, it is not surprising that we find him not only a prominent lawyer, but a leader in the affairs of the state. With other honors gathered in his comparatively short lifetime, this young man has the distinction of having been the youngest member of the Indiana Legislature during the session of 1899, when he represented Decatur county, having been elected the preceding fall. When a man transcends the average of attainment, a look into the history of his ancestors often reveals hidden forces which play an important part in his own life. In the present instance this is eminently true, and we shall find a brief study of the family record of unusual interest, especially from a psychological viewpoint. The attorney whose name forms the caption of this article was born on a farm in Marion township on February 27, 1874, but he did not stay on the farm.

The earliest progenitor of the Holcomb family in America was Thomas, who came from Devonshire, England, to America in 1630, locating at Dorchester, Massachusetts. Born in 1590, he came to this country for the same reason that actuated his other Puritan friends, and it was his descendants who fought in the Revolutionary War. After five years' residence at Dorchester, he went to Connecticut to live, and here it was that he passed away in 1639. His son Nathaniel became the paternal ancestor of John W. Holcomb.

Next in the line of descent, is Rufus, whose father, Luther, was a Revolutionary soldier. Rufus was a native of Connecticut, born in 1786. Stirred by the desire for adventure, he came west at an early day, locating near Moore's Hill, Dearborn county, where Eli, grandfather of John W. Holcomb, was born in 1823. When a young man he moved to Ripley county. His wife, Emeline Hall, was of the true type of pioneer mother, presenting her husband with six children. These were Daniel, father of our subject, Emma Williams, of Kansas; Albert, also of Kansas; Benson, who lives in Arizona; Walter, a resident of California, and Dora Oldham, who lived in Kansas until her death in 1903. Eli Holcomb and his wife left their pioneer home in Indiana for a home farther West, in Kansas, and it was here that the aged man died in 1899. Daniel W. Holcomb, father of our subject, was born in Ripley county in 1852. About the year 1870 he

came to Decatur county. He settled in Marion township on a farm in 1873, and it is here that he still lives. The tract of land which he first purchased consisted of forty acres, but the energetic farmer added to this as his success permitted until he has acquired two hundred and thirty-five acres. He gave especial attention to stock raising besides the usual agricultural enterprises. He is still hale and hearty and is active in politics, being a strong Republican. He is at present township trustee, and has been for many years a member of the Baptist church. Mrs. Holcomb, Sr., was formerly Mary E. Evans, and was born in September, 1855. Their children are John W., the subject of this sketch; Albert, A retired farmer of Westport; Ada Mazingo, who died in December, 1914; Lewis, of Oklahoma; Janie Mazingo, wife of Edward Mazingo, of near Greensburg; Margaret Brown, of North Vernon, and Joseph B., who lives upon his father's farm.

John W. Holcomb received a good general education before he specialized in the studies which prepared him to become the successful lawyer that he is. While he was brought up on the farm, he attended first the common schools, and then the Central Normal College at Danville, Indiana. At the age of eighteen, when many young men are still in college, he began teaching, and for the following eight years, taught in Marion township and Jennings county. He was admitted to the bar in 1897, and practiced for two years in Greensburg, and later spent five years in Indianapolis. Locating in Westport in 1908, he began to build up the practice which now makes him a leader in his profession, and entitles him to a place among the best-known lawyers of the county.

On September, 1899, Mr. Holcomb was married to Margaret Owen, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Owen, of Marion township, and to them two children have been born. These are, Mary, whose birth date is January 26, 1906, and Mabel, born on June 7, 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb are prominent members of the Baptist church. Mr. Holcomb belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge, and also to the Modern Woodmen of America of Westport.

Mr. Holcomb has not been active because of the fact that his profession has led him into political fields, but because here he finds the kind of activity that is congenial to his tastes. The Republican party in his part of the state is stronger because of his leadership, and the fact that he was elected township trustee in 1914 and a representative of his county in the Indiana Legislature of 1899, attests to the measure of confidence and popularity which his constituents accord him. Both positions he has filled with credit both to himself and to those who elected him. Although a youthful member of the

Assembly, he was an able representative, and his county had no reason to regret its choice. Mr. Holcomb has a keen, penetrating mind, called perhaps more technically, a "legal mind," yet his character has the elements of strength that are intellectual, for his nature is at once judicial and sympathetic. He is a good husband and father, a kind friend, a genial neighbor and an upright, loyal citizen.

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#### ALFRED M. ARMSTRONG.

For nearly a century the Armstrong family has been prominently identified with the financial, commercial and agricultural life of Decatur county, Indiana. Sprung from a family of worthy ideals and ambitions, it is not surprising that the present generation of the Armstrong family in Decatur county is prominent in various spheres to which its representatives have turned their attention. Several members of the family are prominent farmers in Decatur and adjoining counties and, at least, one is a prominent banker. The career of Alfred M. Armstrong, of Sand Creek township, is interesting particularly since it discloses ambitions and ideals formed early in life in the neighborhood where he now lives and where they are more fully realized on the farm, in the happy, independent and wholesome life of the countryside. His career discloses in particular how he has, from a small start in life, increased his wealth until now, when the period of his active endeavor is nearing a close, he has a magnificent farm of four hundred and thirty acres in Sand Creek township, a comfortable house and all of the conveniences which present-day country life affords.

Alfred M. Armstrong, who was born on November 17, 1851, in Sand Creek township, one and three-fourths miles north of his present home, is the son of Robert and Rebecca Jane (Hamilton) Armstrong, the former of whom was a well-known citizen of this county. Robert Armstrong, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1817, was brought by his parents to Decatur county when three years old, the family settling in Sand Creek township east of Westport. His father having died shortly after their arrival in Decatur county, Robert was reared in a pioneer log cabin and experienced both the hardships and the joys of pioneer life. Early in life he was married to Rebecca Jane Hamilton, who was born in 1818 and who was the daughter of James Hamilton, a relative of the Hamiltons of Fugit township. He came to Decatur county early in its history and here spent the remainder of his life,

his wife living to the ripe old age of ninety-seven. After his marriage, Robert Armstrong settled on a farm near Letts and later moved to near Westport, having, by the time the Civil War began, accumulated three hundred acres of land. He early manifested an interest in civic affairs and politics and served many years as justice of the peace and two terms as township trustee. He was a charter member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Westport and a prominent man during his day and generation. He died in 1878, while his brother James had died one year previously, and his other brothers and sisters, William, Mrs. Sallie Barnes, Mrs. Jane Singleton, Mrs. Mary Falkenberg and Mrs. Rebecca Boicourt, are all now deceased.

Robert and Rebecca Jane Armstrong had several children, James W., deceased, lived in Sand Creek township; John H., lives in Marion township, south of Greensburg; Oliver P., who is a resident of Fayette county, Illinois; George W., who is a well-known farmer; Albert M., the subject of this sketch, and Francis D., who is president of the First National Bank at Westport. After the death of his first wife, Robert Armstrong was united in marriage to Eliza Jane McDonald and had three children by this second marriage, Robert F., of Letts; Mrs. Mary Jane Harding, of Westport, and Mrs. Louisa Helen Updike, also of Westport.

Alfred M. Armstrong, who was educated in the district schools of Decatur county, spent his boyhood as most boys of his neighborhood, in grubbing, planting, sowing and reaping. He assisted his father on the farm until the latter's death in 1878, and, after his death, he and his brother James operated a farm near Letts for two years. Alfred M. then purchased eighty acres, south of Letts, and to this original purchase he has added from time to time until he now owns four hundred and thirty acres. Some years ago he erected a barn, forty by sixty feet, and for more than ten years has gotten his light and fuel from a gas well which flows on his own farm. In front of the Armstrong residence, an attractive country farm house, is a large stone monument erected by the *Chicago Herald* in commemoration of the spot being chosen as the center of population in 1890.

On July 4, 1886, Mr. Armstrong was married to Hettie M. Dixon, born on July 23, 1862, in Lewis county, Kentucky, the daughter of Levi and Mary (Toler) Dixon, natives of Kentucky, who came to Jennings county in 1865 and four years later to Decatur county. Farmers by occupation, they owned a large tract of land in Sand Creek township south of Westport. Alfred Armstrong was a stockholder in the First National Bank of Westport, Indiana and carries on general farming and stock raising. The father died in 1878 and the mother, who was born in September, 1837, died on May 30,



1915, at the age of eighty-seven years. Mrs. Armstrong, who was a teacher in the public schools of this county, attended Hope and Butlerville academies. Mrs. Armstrong also taught school in Jennings county, having begun as a school teacher at Sherwood. She taught five years in all, the last year at the home school.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Armstrong have been the parents of ten children, one of whom, Roxina, the second born, is deceased. The other children are, Dewitt Talmage, born on April 17, 1887; Cassius Dixon, January 30, 1890; Forrest Eugene, December 12, 1891; Glant Leland, June 20, 1893; Oakleigh, February 14, 1895; Lotus Lowell, June 30, 1898; Winifred, March 28, 1899; Mary Elma and Martha Elva, twins, July 15, 1903. Of this family, Glant Leland is a student at Purdue University and one of the well-known leaders in college life at that institution.

Like his father before him, Alfred M. Armstrong is a loyal and faithful adherent of the Democratic party. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and family are members of the Baptist church. As a farmer, Alfred M. Armstrong is not excelled anywhere in the township where he lives. As a citizen he has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs and, at all times, has given loyal and valuable support to worthy public enterprises. The Armstrong family is well known throughout Sand Creek township and are popular with all classes of people.

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### JOHN LOGAN.

The late John Logan, who, during his lifetime became one of the foremost farmers of Decatur county, Indiana, was born on August 14, 1829, in this county and died, July 16, 1912. The son of early pioneers of this county, John Logan's father, Samuel Logan, a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother, Susanna (Howard), a native of Ohio, in 1818 came down the Ohio river by flat-boat and, after stopping a while in Kentucky, settled in Decatur county when the land was covered with forests. After assisting in the construction of the first log cabin ever erected in Greensburg, he entered land from the government and became very prosperous. A leader of his fellow citizens during his day and generation and a man who attended strictly to his own business. Of the thirteen children born to Samuel and Susanna Logan, there were the following: James, deceased; Samuel, Jr., of Letts Corner, Decatur county; John; Aaron, who lives west of Greensburg, in Washington township; Frank, of Topeka, Kansas; Martha Ann, who married a Doctor

Hitt, now both deceased; Mrs. Margaret Jane Deem, deceased; Mrs. Mary Hamilton, deceased, and Mrs. Rachel Hobbs, who was the wife of Reverend Hobbs a Christian minister, and who died in Des Moines, Iowa, in January, 1915.

The late John Logan lived at home with his parents until his marriage, January 24, 1856, to Eliza E. Hungate, after which he and his wife settled on a farm in Clay township, five miles west of Greensburg. This farm, which was improved and where he and his wife lived until September, 1886, is now occupied by his son. In the meantime, they had prospered and accumulated seven hundred and forty acres of land. Having first begun with a small competence, he had at first purchased two hundred and fifty-seven acres on credit and, after paying for this, by hard work and careful management, he continued buying land, purchasing subsequently four large farms.

Eliza E. Hungate, to whom Mr. Logan was married in 1856, was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, on June 27, 1838, and was the daughter of John and Eliza (Gregory) Hungate, natives of Kentucky, who immigrated to Shelby county in 1840 and later settled in Noble township, Shelby county, Indiana, where they died. He was born in 1798 and died on September 21, 1891, his wife having died previously, at the age of seventy-seven years. Their children were as follow: Andrew Jackson, deceased; George Washington, deceased; Mrs. Cynthia Jones, deceased; John, who lives on the old homestead in Shelby county; Mrs. Eliza Logan, and Catherine, the wife of Thomas Vaughn, deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Logan were born three children, Orange H., George Andrew and Eliza E. Orange owns the old home farm and is a prosperous farmer. He was born June 10, 1857, and married Emma Gregory, a native of Kentucky. They have three children, Earl C., Clem and Nellie. George Andrew, born on March 7, 1862, who is a farmer in Clay township, married Artemus Hayman and has one son, Harry. Mrs. Eliza E. Covert, born on February 23, 1870, resides with her mother. She owns a farm of two hundred acres in Washington township.

A Democrat in politics, the late John Logan took an active part in the councils of his party and was known as one of the leaders in this section of the state. Nevertheless, he was a man of strong domestic temperament and loved his home and friends. One of the largest stock raisers and dealers in Decatur county, Mr. Logan in his lifetime dealt in mules, cattle, horses and sheep. He was accustomed to buying them through the country, then fatten them on his farm and ship them to distant markets.

Mrs. Eliza E. Covert and her mother are active workers in the Chris-

tian church, of which both are members. Mrs. Covert is a member of the Department Club of Decatur county and is prominent in this organization. Mrs. Logan has one great-granddaughter, Lela Emma, the daughter of Clem and Freda (Simmons) Logan. Clem is the son of Orange and Emma (Gregory) Logan. On January 24, 1906, Mr. and Mrs. John Logan celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. It was more than six years after this that Mr. Logan passed away.

As a man well known in the community, the late John Logan will be remembered as of modest and unassuming manners and a man, who during his long and useful life, was interested in the welfare of his neighbors and devoted to the cause of a wholesome and healthful community spirit. His beloved widow is a woman of most pleasing manners, intelligent, cultured and refined, whose life reflects the high order of womanhood in this county.

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#### GEORGE W. METZ.

George W. Metz, for many years a successful merchant at Newpoint, Salt Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, and the son of John Henry Metz, of Fugit township, is the proprietor of a business which was established in 1890. During the past quarter of a century, he has built up an enormous trade in the village and surrounding country and is one of the best known citizens of Decatur county. In September, 1909, the building in which his store was housed was destroyed by fire and shortly thereafter he erected a large brick building in the place of the one destroyed. This is a building forty by sixty feet and has two floors, with the family residence on the second floor and the stock of merchandise on the first. Two rooms on the ground floor, however, are devoted to the kitchen and the laundry. Mr. Metz who has a large trade in country produce, has two show-rooms, and a stock of goods valued at thirty-five hundred dollars.

George W. Metz was born on May 18, 1862, on a farm near Springhill in Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, son of John Henry Metz, who, a poor German lad of twenty-two, came to this county in 1854 and, after living two years in Ohio, settled in Decatur county, Indiana, where, four years later he was married to Louise Huber, a native of Franklin county, this state, who was born on July 16, 1836, and who died on July 10, 1895, the daughter of Gottfried and Margaret (Ziegler) Huber, natives of Germany. From

twenty-five cents, which was all the money that John Henry Metz had on his arrival in America after a tedious voyage across the Atlantic, his fortune has grown from year to year until he now, at the age of eighty-three, owns six hundred acres of land in Fugit and Salt Creek townships, this county, and is regarded as one of the wealthiest men in this section of the state. Although George W. Metz was one of a family of eight children, he, nevertheless, remained at home until his marriage at the age of twenty-eight and assisted his father on the farm. In the early part of 1890 he left the farm and moved to Newpoint, where he engaged in business. On Thanksgiving Day, 1890, Mr. Metz was married to Katie Rabenstein, of Cincinnati, Ohio, the daughter of George Rabenstein, for many years recorder of Hamilton county, Ohio, a position he held at the time of the celebrated court house riot, and a very prominent citizen not only of Cincinnati, but a man who was well known throughout the state of Ohio. He was holding the office of county recorder at the time of his daughter's marriage to Mr. Metz. To this union nine children have been born, all of whom are living: Amanda, the wife of McClelland Wolfe, of North Berne, Ohio, who has two children, Neola and Oren; Elma, the wife of Howard Starks, who resides on the F. B. Kitchin farm in Fugit township, this county, and has two daughters, Bessie and Audrey, both of whom are graduates of the Greensburg high school; Christine, who is at home and works in her father's store; McKinley, who is a student in the Greensburg high school, and Louise, Marguerite, Cora May, George Henry and Katherine, who are at home and attending school.

George W. Metz has always been an ardent believer in Republican principles and a warm supporter of Republican candidates. Appointed postmaster at Newpoint in 1896, during President McKinley's administration, he served eighteen years in that office, or until 1914, two years after the inauguration of President Wilson. He is proud of the various commissions he holds from President McKinley, President Roosevelt, President Taft and President Wilson. All of the members of the Metz family attend the Presbyterian church.

Many of Mr. Metz's most sterling traits, the traits of character which have made him one of the leaders in the business life of Salt Creek township, he, no doubt, has inherited from his worthy father. Careful in his business methods, honorable in his relations with his patrons, he has enjoyed their unqualified confidence and support since his business was first established at Newpoint. No one has ever been disposed to question the intellectual sincerity or personal honor of Mr. Metz. While he has been promin-



ent in the life of the community, he is, nevertheless, a man of domestic temperament, who is devoted primarily to the interests of his home and his family. He deserves credit in a large measure for what he has accomplished and especially for the worthy example he has set for his children.

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### ISAAC SHERA.

There is no positive rule for achieving success and yet in the life of the successful man there are always lessons which might well be followed. The man who attains success is he who can see and utilize the opportunities that come in his path. The essential conditions of human life are ever the same, the surroundings of individuals differing but slightly. When one man passes another on the highway of life it is because he has the power to see and to use the advantages which probably fall within the vision and opportunities of every man. Today among the prominent citizens and successful farmers of Decatur county Isaac Shera, of Westport, stands out as a conspicuous example of what the farm may yield up to a man if he is possessed of discrimination, sound judgment and executive ability. Altogether he owns seven hundred and twenty acres of land, in four farms, on which have been erected six sets of buildings. On September 10, 1912, Mr. Shera moved from his farm in Jackson township to Westport, where he has a beautiful town residence on West Main street, which he has remodeled and modernized, spending over six hundred dollars on the town property. When a lad Isaac Shera cultivated ground occupied by what is now a part of old Sardinia, his father's farm having adjoined that village.

The story of Isaac Shera's rise to fortune is a most interesting chapter in the history of Decatur county. He began his farming operations when a young man of twenty-one years, and in 1880, shortly after his marriage, purchased one hundred and twenty acres, which tract is now looked on as the family homestead. From time to time he has added to this land from the fruits of his industry, his toil and his good management. In 1890 he bought fifty-two acres across the road from the original one-hundred-and-twenty-acre tract and the next year bought twenty-eight acres, the remainder of the eighty-acre tract. The next year he purchased one hundred and sixty acres one mile east of the homestead in what is known as the Big Horn neighborhood, and adjoining the Big Horn high school. In 1904 he bought eighty acres adjacent to the Big Horn high school, and a few years later one hun-





ISAAC SHERA.



RESIDENCE OF ISAAC SHELA.





dred and twenty acres one mile south of Sardinia. A little later he added forty acres to the Sardinia tract, making one hundred and sixty acres, and in the meantime purchased eighty acres one mile west of the homestead. In a way, there is no complex chapter in his rise to success, except that he has fed all the grain he raises to live stock and has always striven to do the right thing at the right time and in the proper way. Although his farms are all rented they are kept in first-class condition, Mr. Shera devoting his time to looking after repairs and keeping up the land. In 1914, for instance, he had eight barns painted.

Isaac Shera was born on August 25, 1851, near Sardinia, in Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Caleb and Elizabeth (Shaffer) Shera, the former of whom was born in 1815 and died in 1883, and the latter of whom died in 1868. Caleb Shera was a native of Ireland, who at the age of twenty-five came to America and settled in Bartholomew county, this state, moving westward to Decatur county after his marriage in Franklin county. Elizabeth Shera was reared in Franklin county, the daughter of John and Catherine Shaffer, of Pennsylvania-German stock. Of the eleven children born to Caleb and Elizabeth (Shaffer) Shera, six are living and five are deceased. The deceased children are Mary Elizabeth; Isabelle, who died at the age of fifteen; John Wesley; William, who died in the service of the Union army in a hospital at Nashville, Tennessee; and Thomas M., who was a farmer. The living children are Catherine, of Lebanon, Indiana; James, of Lebanon; Isaac, the subject of this sketch; Wilson M., a farmer of Jackson township; Sylvester C., who lives in Kansas; and Mrs. Martha A. Watkins, a widow who resides at Wellington, Kansas. The late Caleb Shera was a Republican, but had never aspired to office.

On November 28, 1878, Isaac Shera was married to Mary A. Updike, who was born on October 23, 1852, the daughter of Elijah and Matilda (Gilbert) Updike, the former of whom was born on August 4, 1818, and died on May 10, 1893. Peter Updike, the father of Elijah and grandfather of Mrs. Shera, was a native of Pennsylvania, who packed up his household goods in wagons and brought his family to the rough timber lands of Indiana, looking into the uncertain and dangerous future with faith in himself and in the God of his fathers. Nor was this pioneer's faith misplaced, as the after years have proved. It was in Franklin county that Elijah Updike began life and when he had reached manhood he married and made his home on a farm two miles north of Westport, in this county. His wife, whose maiden name was Matilda Gilbert, was twice married, being at the time of

her marriage to Elijah Updike, the widow of a Mr. Luse, who had a daughter, Nancy J. Luse. Matilda Updike was a daughter of James Gilbert, whose enterprising spirit and ambition brought him from bonnie Scotland to this country in the days of his young manhood. He had a reputation in all the country around for his honesty and integrity, and his good business ability. His daughter, Matilda, was born in 1834 and passed away on July 1, 1889. On the farm on which Elijah Updike and wife settled in 1861 they spent the rest of their lives. They were the parents of four children, namely: William G., former commissioner of Decatur county; Mary Ann, who is the wife of Mr. Shera; Frank M., of Butler county, Ohio, and John Riley, who died in Franklin county when two years of age.

To Isaac and Mary A. (Updike) Shera have been born two children, the youngest of whom, Elmer Ray, was born on November 4, 1887, and died on April 22, 1889. Earl Leroy, the eldest, was born on November 2, 1885, and is a farmer in Jackson township. He married Mamie Clark and they have two children, Glen G. and Lucile.

Isaac Shera has one of the most beautiful country homes in Decatur county. His residence sets back fifty feet from the road, and is reached through an avenue of shade trees and shrubbery by a graveled driveway, the lawn being surrounded by a beautiful iron fence. Flowers are to be found everywhere, and everything is kept in the very neatest condition. There are two gas wells on the Shera farms. Isaac Shera erected all the buildings on his farm and is proud of his place and achievements, as he has a right to be. He has improved and remodeled more farms in Jackson township than any other resident thereof.

Mr. and Mrs. Shera are members of the Baptist church, Mr. Shera having joined that church at Westport on February 10, 1913. He is treasurer of the congregation and a trustee of the church. He gave land valued at sixteen hundred dollars on which the new church is to be erected, and also presented the congregation with a house and lot for a parsonage. In addition he also donated the cash for the erection of the church and in this community he is known as one of its most liberal citizens. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Letts, and he is a Republican, although he has never aspired to office.

A man who believes in public improvements and who believes not only in public improvements, but in private improvements; who is industrious, frugal and business-like in habits; who is honorable and upright in his dealings with his fellows, Mr. Shera is entitled to the profoundest respect of the







JUDGE SAMUEL A. BONNER.

public. Isaac Shera has been all of these things and today he not only is one of the more well-to-do citizens of the county, but he has also, in his race for fame and fortune, attained what is even more valuable, the good will of the people with whom he has come into contact.

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### JUDGE SAMUEL ALEXANDER BONNER.

The late Samuel Alexander Bonner, one of the judges of the common pleas court of Decatur county during the Civil War and a later judge of the circuit court, was one of the leading citizens of Decatur county for many years. Inheriting a love for righteousness and justice from his distinguished father, who left his home in Alabama in 1836 to escape the iniquities of slavery, Judge Bonner lived up to the high ideals of his worthy father in all things.

The late Judge Samuel Alexander Bonner was born on a plantation in Wilcox county, Alabama, on December 5, 1826, the son of James and Mary (Foster) Bonner. His parents were both of Scotch-Irish ancestry and descended from families who first settled in South Carolina. About 1830 the serious agitation against slavery was beginning in this country, started by men and women, first called fanatics, it was carried forward during a period of thirty years, culminating in the most serious civil crisis in the history of the world. James Bonner was bitterly opposed to the institution of slavery, and, finding that he could accomplish nothing against it in the state of his residence, he left the Southland in 1836 and came to the North, where slavery was an illegal institution. There were six children, four sons and two daughters, who came North with the parents, when they located in 1836 near Springhill in Fugit township in the old United Presbyterian settlement. Of these four sons, James Foster died in 1913 at the age of ninety-two, in the city of Greensburg; Rev. John Irwin settled in Due West, South Carolina, and died in 1881, in the midst of eminent usefulness in ecclesiastical, editorial and educational service, as leader from 1847, in every department of church activity, and, for many years, editor of the *Associate Reformed Presbyterian*, and president of the Due West Female College; William Harvey died in 1874; Samuel A., is the subject of this sketch; two daughters, Margaret E. and Mary J. died in 1858 and 1864, respectively, while visiting a brother in South Carolina. The father, James Bonner, passed away in 1844.

Any student of history will know that the educational advantages in pioneer settlements of the Hoosier state during the forties, were exceedingly limited. Fortunately, Samuel A. Bonner was not compelled to rely upon the pioneer schools for his education. He was able to attend the Richland Academy in Rush county, and, subsequently, Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio. Still later he was a student at Central College at Danville, Kentucky, and was graduated there in 1849. These two institutions, Miami University and Center College, at this period, offered perhaps the widest educational advantages west of the Alleghany mountains and it would be difficult to estimate what they did for the pioneer educational life of Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. Samuel A. Bonner was only one of the young men of this early period who came under their protecting aegis.

After studying law in the office of Judge Andrew Davison, in Greensburg, he was graduated from the law department of Indiana University in 1852. He then began the practice of his profession in Greensburg with Barton W. Wilson. Two years later he was elected a member of the Indiana General Assembly and was re-elected for a second term. About this time he was elected judge of the common pleas court of Rush and Decatur counties and served four years. In 1860 he became a law partner of the late Will Cumback, which partnership continued until Mr. Cumback retired from practice. In 1877 Judge Bonner was elected to the circuit bench and served twelve years, when, upon his retirement from the bench, he became the senior partner of the law firm of Bonner, Tackett & Bennett, which firm continued for several years, with a few changes in the partnership meanwhile. It is noteworthy and shows the estimation in which he was held as a learned and impartial jurist that he was unopposed for his second term by both parties, and that no decision of his was ever reversed by a superior court. Judge Bonner loved the bench and cared little for the active practice of law, either as a counselor or as a solicitor. In fact, he rarely went into the court room after retiring from the bench. For nine years Judge Bonner was a member of the board of trustees of the Indiana School for the Deaf.

Having been elected a ruling elder in the Greensburg Presbyterian church in 1862, he served in this capacity until his death on April 5, 1904. He was always prominent in church work and six times was commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, an exceptionally high honor for any layman and a fitting testimonial to his service in the church.

Judge Samuel A. Bonner was twice married, the first time in 1852 to Ella M. Carter, a niece of John I. Morrison, who was prominent in the pioneer



educational affairs of the state. She died on October 27, 1861, leaving two daughters, Mrs. Lizzie C. Wampler, and Mrs. Minnie E. Dechant, a widow, both of Richmond, Indiana. The latter has one son, Frederick Bonner Dechant, a student at Kenyon College, at Gambier, Ohio. The former also has one son, John Bonner Wampler, a graduate of Purdue University, a civil engineer by profession, who is employed by the Chicago Lift Bridge Company. He was married in June, 1913, to Hester Light, of Chicago.

Judge Bonner was again married on August 22, 1867, the second time to Abbie A. Snell, who was born at East Randolph, now Holbrook, Massachusetts, the daughter of Alvan and Anna (Holbrook) Snell. Both the Holbrook and Snell families were pioneers in the Old Bay state. Mrs. Bonner is descended from eight persons who came over to this country on the "Mayflower," among them being Miles Standish, John Alden, Priscilla Mullins and Governor Bradford. On the Snell side of the family, several members fought in the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Bonner is a direct descendant of both Joseph and Sarah Alden, children of John and Priscilla Alden. One child born to Judge and Mrs. Bonner, Anna Bingly, died in infancy.

Mrs. Abbie Bonner lives in her home in Greensburg, where the family located in 1869. She has traveled extensively during her lifetime. Educated in Maplewood Institute at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, she began teaching in 1859 in Holly Springs, Mississippi, leaving there in June, after war was declared. After teaching in Massachusetts until 1865, she came to Greensburg and was employed for two years as a teacher in the public schools. For six years after her marriage, she taught a private school in Greensburg at the solicitation of a number of residents. For thirty-five years she has been officially identified with the women's missionary work of the Presbyterian church in both Presbytery and Synod, being president for seven years in the latter and thirty-five years in the former.

Judge Samuel A. Bonner will be remembered in this county, not only as an eminent jurist and lawyer, but as one of the organizers of the Third National Bank at Greensburg, one of the leading financial institutions in the city. He was a director of this institution at the time of his death. Legislator, lawyer, jurist and banker, Judge Bonner was more than all of these, since he was an eminent, trustworthy and honorable citizen, a man who had a part in the best interests of the great county and state in which he lived. His life's career reflects high credit upon the personnel of the Decatur citizens during the last century, in which most of Judge Bonner's work was done. Whether he ruled over rich or poor, he administered justice conscientiously and impartially.



## WILSON M. SHAFER.

Among the earlier settlers of Ohio and Indiana we find none with sturdier ambition and more forceful character than those of Dutch lineage. Here was combined a spiritual ideal, along with a sense of the necessity of the material, the two making such a balance that such progeny was almost universally progressive and constructive, and consequently successful. It was a common phrase among the earlier inhabitants of these states, that "whoever carries within his veins Dutch blood, carries a key to success," and this rule seems not to have been altered when, on June 27, 1850, Wilson M. Shafer was born down in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana.

Wilson M. Shafer was the son of Rev. John Shafer, whose father was of Dutch ancestry born and reared in Pennsylvania, but who afterward removed to Butler county, Ohio, where, on Christmas day, 1813, John Shafer was born.

Rev. John Shafer, after spending his boyhood days in Butler county, moved to near Hamilton, Ohio, and after some years residence there, moved to Springfield, Indiana, in Franklin county, where he met and later married Ada McCaw, which union proved a most helpful and happy one, lasting until Mrs. Shafer's death on November 18, 1876.

There is a prevalent notion that the average minister is so engrossed with the affairs of his congregation that he is apt to neglect his own household, but this never could have been said of John Shafer, for while he was at all times faithful to his ministerial obligations, he was also equally faithful to his parental duties. John Shafer was a regularly ordained Methodist minister and was subject to all of the hardships to which the "circuit rider" of his day was accustomed, yet this did not prevent him from accumulating, through the persistent efforts of himself and his faithful wife, the means wherewith to rear a large family.

John Shafer came from Ohio about 1835 and settled in Decatur county, Indiana, where he bought, at a very low price, a tract of timber land and, during the intervals between his ministerial and other duties, cleared this farm and soon had it under cultivation. He prospered, and soon another tract was entered and cleared, and thus his land investments increased until he at one time owned five hundred acres of good farming land. His thought was always of his home and of his children, of which the following were born into his family: Catherine, James and John, who, after they were almost fully grown, were stricken with typhoid fever, during an epidemic of that disease, and died; Asbury and Elizabeth, who died in infancy; Isaiah, who

died in 1887, was a Union soldier who enlisted with the Seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded in battle at Port Republic, Virginia; Mary Jane, wife of John Shaw, of Greensburg, died in 1909; Amaretta (McComb), who died in 1874; Wilson M., the subject of this sketch; Josephine (Rice), whose husband was a minister, died in Iowa; Richard William, now a resident of Greencastle, and Ada, who died at the age of eight.

Wilson M. Shafer, the ninth child of this notable family, was educated in the common schools of Indiana, but, like many of the sturdy settlers of the earlier days, secured his real education in the pioneer school of "Hard Knocks." He also attended Moores Hill College for one year. On August 15, 1877, he married Emma Clendenning, of Franklin county, and to them three children were born, J. Carl, of Anderson, Indiana, who married Ethel Ping, born in Virginia and a daughter of Senator Henry Ping, of Virginia. She is a fine musician. Ada Delse, who died at the age of two years, and Earl L., also of Anderson, Indiana, with the Union Traction Company.

Emma Clendenning was born in Franklin county on May 16, 1856, and was the daughter of John and Hannah (Creager) Clendenning, natives of Ohio and of Franklin county, respectively. They were of Scotch ancestry and both died in Franklin county. John Clendenning was a son of John Clendenning, who emigrated from Scotland to this country and married a Miss Elliott, whose brother, John Elliott, was the first editor of the *Western Christian Advocate*.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson M. Shafer, at the time of their marriage, secured a tract of eighty acres of partly cultivated land, cleared, ditched and otherwise so improved it that today it is said to be the best tract of land to be found anywhere in Jackson township. In 1882 they sold this farm at a highly profitable figure and purchased a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre tract, a part of the old home place, known as the Petree farm, located two miles west of Westport. Here the same process of improvement was pursued until this farm was brought up to standard in the way of soil requirements and modern buildings. A beautiful home was built and here Mr. and Mrs. Shafer lived and labored until in December, 1911.

Wilson M. Shafer, by his honesty and persistency, had won not only the admiration and respect of his neighbors, but of the whole county. He was a staunch Republican, and during the summer of 1911 was placed in nomination for county commissioner and elected to that office for a term of three years. After his election he decided to leave the farm and bought a beautiful residence in Westport and in December of 1911 established his residence as a citizen of that town.

It is almost useless to state that Mr. Shafer filled the office of county commissioner in a creditable and honorable manner, because one should know that character so well-grounded through years of service in knowledge of community needs would not sit idle when the moment and opportunity for action arrived. The three years of service which Mr. Shafer rendered his community in this office, showed many needed and constructive activities in which his ability and influence was in no manner negative.

Throughout their married life, Mr. and Mrs. Shafer have been active church workers and, while their activities have been not wholly sectarian, they are members of the Methodist church. Nor have they in any manner neglected their social and humanitarian obligations. Mr. Shafer is a member of the Westport Knights of Pythias, while Mrs. Shafer is a very ardent and active member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of the Woman's Relief Corps and of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

During the winter of 1914-15, Mr. and Mrs. Shafer spent a period of time visiting in Florida and the Southern states. They visited many points of historical as well as of educational interest, and returned to Westport with renewed interest in life. Though they have announced to their friends that they have retired from active life, it is generally thought that the habits of an active life are so deep in the dye that Wilson and Emma Shafer will yet be busy with their Master's work.

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#### FRANCIS D. ARMSTRONG.

Francis D. Armstrong, president of the First National Bank, of Westport, Indiana, is a scion of one of the old and honored families of the state, his grandfather having come here from Pennsylvania nearly a century ago. Deeply engraved in the history of Decatur county are the name and achievements of Mr. Armstrong whose influence in the social and economic life of his community has been most potent and of the highest possible order. Not only because of his success as a man of affairs, but because of his strength of character and inflexibility of purpose, does his life history deserve to be incorporated in this publication whose function it is to record those personal biographies which have contributed to the advancement of the state as a national power. As a business man, as a farmer and banker, as well as in his religious, political and social relationships, Mr. Armstrong has won a place of leadership, and the confidence of his associates.

Ancestry plays such an important part in our lives that it seems that it is the silent, forceful background of every picture, and in the present instance, it is especially worthy of record. The honored citizen whose name forms the caption of this article, was born on March 15, 1847, in a place called "Jericho" in Sand Creek, but his father, Robert Armstrong, was a native of Pennsylvania. The latter was born in 1817, and when three years of age came with his parents to Decatur county, where they settled in Sand Creek township, east of Westport. Robert's father died soon after coming to this state, and the boy was reared in a rude pioneer cabin, surrounded by the love of his mother and brothers and sisters. In early manhood, Robert married Rebecca Jane Hamilton who later became the mother of nine children of whom Francis D. Armstrong was third in chronological order. Rebecca Hamilton was born in 1818, and was the daughter of James Hamilton, a relative of the Hamiltons of Fugit township. James Hamilton came here at an early date, and in passing, it is interesting to note that his wife, Judy, lived to the ripe age of ninety-nine years. The mother of Francis Armstrong died in 1856. His father settled on a farm east of Letts, first clearing the land in true pioneer fashion. It was in 1857 that he moved near Westport, and so proficient was he in the management of his agricultural interests, that by the time of the Civil War, he had become a large and influential landowner, having come into possession of three hundred acres of well-improved land. He was also a speculator. It was one of his ambitions to be able to give each of his sons a farm, believing that with this much to start with, they should be able to succeed in life. The esteem in which he was held, is evidenced by the fact that for many years Robert Armstrong served as justice of the peace, and for several terms as township trustee. His interest in public affairs made him a political leader in the Democratic party, and he was equally forceful as a church member. He was always a close student of the Bible, a supporter of the church and charities, and altogether, a public-spirited citizen in his sphere of influence in all civic and social matters, using the word social in its broad sense. His genial, whole-souled nature found pleasure in organization, so it is not surprising to learn that he was a charter member of the Free and Accepted Masons of Westport. It is said that he never missed a meeting of his favorite lodge. The life history of this interesting personality might be said to close with his death in 1878, but his influence still lives in the hearts and lives of those who knew him, and of the town in which he made his home.

Returning for a moment to his immediate family, it is necessary to record that he had a number of brothers and sisters whose names were as



follow: James, who died in 1877, William, also deceased; Sallie Barnes; Jane Singleton; Mary Falkenberg; Rebecca Boicourt, and Elizabeth Longnecker, all of whom have passed away.

With this significant ancestral setting in mind, we can approach the life history of Francis D. Armstrong, which we are permitted only to sketch briefly, with added interest and undertaking. With parents such as he had, it is not surprising that Francis Armstrong has come to occupy the place he does in the locality of his home and in the hearts of his fellow citizens. Of Mr. Armstrong's two elder brothers, James W., died in 1909, and John lives four miles south of Greensburg in Marion township. Of his younger brothers, Oliver P., lives in Fayette county, Illinois; George W. is deceased and Albert M., the latter, is a resident of Sand Creek township. Robert Armstrong married, secondly, Eliza June McDonald, who died in 1910. They were the parents of Robert F., of Letts, Sand Creek township; Mary Jane (Harding) of Westport, and Louisa Helen (Updike), also of Westport.

Francis D. Armstrong was educated in the country schools of his boyhood home, and was early accustomed to hard work, for he and his brothers helped their father on the farm. Francis lived with his father until the latter's death which occurred when he was sixty-one years of age. His business ability was shown even in his young manhood, for after his father's death he rented a farm, and from the very first made it a financial success. This property he occupied for four years, combining the raising and selling of stock with his agricultural pursuits. Then he purchased a farm, shipped live stock in carload lots and managed the work until 1905, when he retired from his farm to his home in Westport where he and his family have lived since September, 1912.

On February 10, 1887, Mr. Armstrong was united in marriage to Martha Ellen Morgan who was born in 1866 in Sand Creek township. She was the daughter of Robert P. and Nancy Ann Morgan natives of Kentucky. Mrs. Armstrong lived until 1900, when she passed away, leaving her husband and three children to mourn her loss. The children are Leo; Frances Shirley, wife of Barney Williams, and Howard Ward who was born in 1897, and who lives at home. Mrs. Shirley was only recently married.

Beside the splendid residence in which he lives, Mr. Armstrong has one hundred and thirty acres of valuable land near Westport. He now devotes the greater part of his time to the banking business, having become president of the First National Bank in 1908, this institution succeeding a private bank.

Outside of their domestic relations, the two most important characterizations concerning men's affiliations are in relation to their politics and

religion, and they never seem quite classified until these two facts are known. Mr. Armstrong adheres to the principles of the Democratic party, and is a member of the Baptist denomination. Like his father, he has been a loyal member of Lodge No. 52, Free and Accepted Masons, of Westport.

Having outlined the chief events in the life of Mr. Armstrong, the reader can understand why he is considered one of the alert, progressive business men who have advanced the economic and social interests of Decatur county, and whose lives have been a distinctive impetus to the commercial success of the locality in which they have lived and labored. The prestige and respect accorded Mr. Armstrong may best be measured by the scope and importance of the business institution which he directs.

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### WILL W. LOGAN.

Born in this county sixty-five years ago and still living in the house in which he was born, the son of a pioneer who early discerned the possibilities hidden in the wilderness which once covered this now favored region and proceeded to take advantage thereof, becoming one of the foremost and most influential members of the community of which he made a part; witnessing the wonderful material advancement of this community during the last half century, proving himself a no small factor in the development thus noted, the subject of this interesting biographical review very properly may be regarded as one of the leaders of the common life of Decatur county. Honored by his fellowmen by election to one of the most useful and responsible positions of trust in the gift of the people of the county and serving capably and well in the capacity thus trustfully imposed upon him, Mr. Logan becomes one of the county's distinctive personalities, and no history of the times in this county would be complete without fitting reference to his life and to the character of his public services.

Will W. Logan was born on a farm on the northwest edge of the corporate limits of the city of Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, January 16, 1850, the son of Samuel H. and Millie (Hice) Logan, both natives of Pennsylvania.

Samuel H. Logan, who was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, February 1, 1819, was the son of John and Isabel (Graham) Logan, whose parents came to America from Ireland late in the eighteenth century and located in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, where they spent the remainder of their

lives. John and Isabel Logan were the parents of the following children: Samuel H., the father of the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Mrs. Hanna Hice, born on June 17, 1822; Mrs. Margaret Elliot, February 20, 1825, and Mrs. Ann Baker, July 12, 1827, who lives four miles from Greensburg, in this county.

On November 26, 1840, Samuel H. Logan was united in marriage to Millie Hice, who was born in Pennsylvania on October 20, 1818, a daughter of Henry Hice, who was a native of Germany. Shortly after marriage Samuel H. Logan and his wife came to Decatur county, his father having bought government land in Washington township. Mr. Logan was a very clear-headed man, enterprising and public spirited and an excellent farmer. He prospered and presently began to enlarge his land holdings, shortly becoming one of the large land owners in this county. He took a deep interest in public affairs and was ranked among the leading men of the county. He served the people very acceptably as county commissioner for some time and his sound judgment and fine executive ability gave to this service a real value to the public. As his children grew to manhood and womanhood he gave to each a fine farm out of his extensive estate, the old homestead place being given to Will W., the subject of this sketch. Samuel H. Logan was honored and respected in this county and at his death there was general and sincere mourning throughout the whole country. He died on October 19, 1904. His wife had long preceded him to the grave, her death having occurred on October 15, 1879.

To Samuel H. and Millie (Hice) Logan were born ten children, namely: Henry H., born on September 17, 1841, a well-known farmer of this county, who lives two miles west of Greensburg on the Milford road; Isabella G., September 22, 1843, widow of Samuel Applegate, resides in Greensburg; Mary S., November 26, 1845, widow of Will Murray, resides in Nevada, Missouri; John B., October 8, 1847, a well-known traveling salesman, resides at Indianapolis; Will W., the subject of this sketch; Sarah, October 19, 1852, married Joseph Ketchum and lives at Cincinnati; Marine R., March 6, 1855, died on May 22, 1885; Samuel, September 16, 1857, died on April 18, 1893; Emma J., August 20, 1860, died on August 16, 1865, and George M., September 13, 1862, who is the general agent of the International Harvester Company at Richmond, Indiana.

Will W. Logan received his youthful education in the Tarkington school house, which was situated on a corner of what is now his home farm, which then was the home of the Rev. Joseph Tarkington, supplementing this early schooling with a course in the Greensburg schools under the instruction of

Mrs. Samuel Bonner, a noted teacher of that period. Upon reaching manhood's estate he entered seriously on the business of farming, a vocation in which he had received his father's best instructions, and, having inherited a large measure of his father's sagacity, has prospered, his place of one hundred and sixty acres, located on the very outskirts of the county seat, being recognized as one of the finest farms in the county. Mr. Logan is alert and enterprising in his methods of farming and keeps fully abreast of all the latest developments in the science of agriculture. The old brick homestead house, which his father erected, has been remodeled along modern lines and is regarded as one of the pleasantest and most comfortable homes in the county, a place where hospitality and good cheer ever prevail.

When natural gas was discovered in Decatur county, many years ago, Samuel H. Logan organized a company and drilled a number of gas wells. The well on the home farm proved to be a valuable producer and at his death, Mr. Logan left it to his children, in trust, Will W. Logan being named as trustee, which trust still is faithfully being executed. The Logan wells have been yielding gas in paying quantities since the fall of 1887 and have been a source of considerable profit to the Logan family.

On June 1, 1887, Will W. Logan was united in marriage to Katie M. Forkert, who was born on September 13, 1860, in the village of Adams, Decatur county, Indiana, daughter of Ernest and Catherine Forkert, natives of Germany, who came to America, locating in this county, early becoming regarded as among the best-known people of the Smyrna neighborhood. Ernest Forkert has been dead for some years, but his widow is still living in Salt Creek township, this county, highly esteemed by all who know her.

To Will W. and Katie (Forkert) Logan two children have been born, Stella May, born on July 29, 1889, who married Clyde L. Jones and lives in the city of Indianapolis; to that union one child has been born, a son, William Logan; and Frederick W., June, 1892, who married Merle Wiley and is now managing the home farm for his father.

Mr. Logan is a member of the Presbyterian church and Mrs. Logan is a member of the Presbyterian church at Greensburg. Mr. Logan is a life-long Democrat, his father also having been one of the leaders of that party in this county, and for years has given close attention to political affairs in this county. In the fall of 1912 he was elected to the important and responsible office of county commissioner from his district and is now filling very ably and very acceptably the exacting duties of that office, the only office, by the way, for which he ever permitted his candidacy to be announced. Recognizing the opportunities for useful public service this office offers, Mr. Logan is



giving the very best of himself to this service and his painstaking efforts on behalf of the county's best interests have been noted with satisfaction by the people. Mr. Logan is a member of the Greensburg lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in the affairs of which he takes much interest. He is a genial, whole-souled gentleman and is very popular among the members of that order as well as among all who know him, and that includes pretty much everyone in the county, for there are few men in Decatur county better known than he.

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### JAMES THOMAS KERCHEVAL.

America has a goodly heritage, which we should endeavor to hand on with value unimpaired to those who shall come after us. Only as we realize our own high duty and responsibility shall we be able to bequeath to posterity the noble inheritance we ourselves have received. America is in the making. The blending of her various peoples into one homogeneous whole to work out the vast problems of civilization both for herself and the entire world is the immediate task before us. The descendants of the original settlers will be expected to stand foremost among the many in projecting the activities of the future. Among the many families in Decatur county descended from the original settlers of this section of the state there is none held in higher esteem than the Kerchevals, the fifth generation of whom is now contributing to the well-being of this county. The gentleman whose name heads this biographical review has behind him the traditions of an honorable past and he and his children and his children's children are maintaining right honorably those glorious traditions. Mr. Kercheval's great-grandfather on his father's side was a soldier in the Continental army during the War of Independence and his great-grandfather on his grandmother's side also was a patriot soldier during that successful revolutionary struggle. Mr. Kercheval has in his possession two silver spoons out of a set of six made from coin silver received as pay by his ancestors in the Revolutionary War. The progenitor of the Kercheval family in America was a French Huguenot who fled to this country to escape the oppression which awaited those of his faith on the other side and the Kerchevals have made their mark in various points in which this now widely-separated family is located.

James Thomas Kercheval, who lives on a farm of ninety acres in Washington township, this county, two miles east of the city of Greensburg, was born on the farm on which he now lives, February 8, 1860, the son of

Lemuel W. and Elizabeth Ann (Travis) Kercheval, both natives of this county, the former of whom was born on January 19, 1815, and died in 1880, and the latter of whom was born in 1821 and died in 1889.

Lemuel W. Kercheval was the son of George Washington and Hannah (Grant) Kercheval, natives of Virginia, the former of whom was born on March 21, 1782, and the latter on September 17, 1784, who were married on December 5, 1805, emigrating to Kentucky, in which state they lived until 1821, in which year they came to Decatur county, locating in Washington township, which ever since has been the seat of Kercheval family in this county. George W. Kercheval's father was a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. His wife, Hannah, was a daughter of Robert and Sarah Grant, the former of whom also was a Revolutionary soldier.

To George W. and Hannah (Grant) Kercheval were born seven children, namely: Caroline Frances, born on August 22, 1807; Elizabeth Sarah, August 24, 1809; Lucinda P., April 2, 1811; Mariah Jane, March 6, 1813; Lemuel Willis, January 19, 1815; Armand Melvina, February, 1817, and Eliza Ann, April 6, 1821.

Lemuel Willis Kercheval was reared on the home farm, receiving such education as the limited schools of his day afforded, and on March 6, 1850, married Elizabeth Ann Travis, of this county, daughter of Hannah Frances Travis, a widow, whose husband was killed when Elizabeth Ann was a small child. Lemuel W. Kercheval owned one hundred and eighty acres of good land and was a good farmer and a good citizen. He was a member of the Methodist church, but late in life espoused the faith of the Baptists. He was a Republican and took a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county, though never being included in the office-seeking class. He and his wife were the parents of two children, sons, James T. and George W., the latter of whom lives in Gensburg, this county.

James Thomas Kercheval received his education in the district schools of Washington township, supplementing the same with one year's schooling in town. He inherited his farm of ninety acres, the home farm being divided between him and his brother at the death of their parents. He has made the most of his opportunities and is known as a wide-awake, enterprising farmer, ever alert to the most advanced methods in the rapidly expanding science of agriculture. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has prospered.

On August 6, 1885, James T. Kercheval was united in marriage to Martha J. Privett, daughter of William and Cynthia Privett, who died on

December 7, 1897, leaving two children, Lemuel Willis and Forest D. Lemuel Willis Kercheval lives at Newport, Kentucky. He married Theresa Hoffman, to which union two children have been born, George W. and Arthur. On August 17, 1899, Mr. Kercheval married, secondly, Mrs. Effie M. Harrison, a widow, who had one child, a daughter, Glendora.

Mr. and Mrs. Kercheval are adherents of the Presbyterian church and take an active interest in the works of that church and in the general social affairs of their community, being very popular with all who know them. Mr. Kercheval is a Republican and is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is an excellent citizen and is held in high regard among his large circle of friends.

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### JAMES LANCASTER HARDING.

Among the leading and honorable citizens of Decatur county is James Lancaster Harding of Newport, a native of Salt Creek township where he has always lived and pursued the even tenor of his way. As sturdy as an oak tree, James L. Harding has stood as one of the leading representatives, in his generation, of a family and name which have a history reaching back to the time "when knighthood was in flower" in England, in the days of William the Conqueror.

John Harding, the father of James L. Harding, emigrated to Decatur county with his family, through Butler county, Ohio, from Virginia, and was one of the pioneer settlers in the eastern part of Decatur county not long after the red man had kindled his last fire on the hillsides of old Salt Creek. James L. Harding, his brothers and sisters, his parents and the thrifty neighbors of his boyhood days, lived to see a wonderful transformation in the rural life and the agricultural processes of the country about them. Such men as they know what it meant in the days ago to live in a home in the wilderness. They saw what it meant to fell the trees of the heavy virgin forest, to clear and prepare the land for the planting and then to gather the harvest with implements of the crudest sort. Mr. Harding remembers many of the achievements of the scattered, early pioneer communities of the eastern section of the county, the genuine frolic and fun of the husking-bees and the triumphs and the merriment of the log-rollings of the hardy days before the Civil War. It is a wonderful thing to have lived, as he has done, over the period when the boundary line between two epochs in the history of the industry and progress of the country was being crossed, and to have been in







JAMES LANCASTER HARDING.



LOG CABIN BUILT BY JAMES L. HARDING IN 1866 AND THE BIRTHPLACE OF  
ALL HIS CHILDREN.



that period a part and parcel of its very achievements. James L. Harding himself has done his part well in the promotion of good citizenship in the land, by the example of his own true character and his live interest in public affairs and by his characteristic championship of absolute honesty and integrity in private and public life. He supports religious movements generally and is a stanch Democrat as are his sons. Among more important duties he has served two terms as land appraiser, in 1903 and in 1911. While he has done his part, also, in transforming agricultural life and opportunities in Decatur county, he has done so as a man possessed with a vision of newer and greater achievements. It is his son, by the way, the Hon. Lewis A. Harding, graduate of the Indiana State University, now prosecuting attorney of the ninth judicial circuit of Indiana and a member of the American Historical Association, who is the editor of the historical section of this volume.

James L. Harding, who owns a productive farm in Salt Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, was born on July 3, 1842, on the old Harding homestead, in a double hewed log cabin, the last child of John and Susan (Abraham) Harding, the former of whom was born on April 27, 1790, and died on March 3, 1882, at the age of ninety-one years, and the latter of whom was born in 1798 and died at the age of eighty-seven years in 1885. John Harding was a native of Augusta county, Virginia, the son of John Harding, Sr., of old Cavalier stock, who died in his native state. John Harding, Jr., with others, emigrated to Kentucky and thence to Butler county, Ohio, in an early day. In Butler county, Ohio, John Harding married Mary Ashcraft, who was a sister of Amos Ashcraft, and established a pioneer home at the Kinnard hill, about two miles east of the state line on which is now the Brookville & Hamilton pike. To this first marriage was born one child, a son, Providence. The wife of John Harding's early young manhood died young. He later married a Miss Abraham, and to this second union also but one child was born, a daughter, Mary Ann. After the death of his second wife, John Harding married her sister, Susan Abraham, to which union nine children were born, namely: Mrs. Emaline Earls, Israel, Sr., Enoch, Elizabeth, Mrs. Hester Osborn, Mrs. Florence Osborn, Harrison, Mrs. Sophia Jane Marlin and James L., the last named and eleventh child of the family, being the only one born in Indiana.

The old well at the site of the early home at the Kinnard hill remained intact until about five years ago, when it was filled up and a railroad was built across the place to Okeanna. The Harding place in Ohio embraced only eighty acres and soon proved too small for the large family. Accord-



ingly, John Harding procured from Amos Ashcraft a tract of two hundred and forty acres in Salt Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana. To this place, now known as the old Harding homestead, where James L. Harding now lives, John Harding removed from Butler county, Ohio, in the month of February, 1839, crossing the Whitewater river at Brookville, and other streams, on the ice. The eldest son, Providence and family moved to Salt Creek township about a year later and settled on what later became known as the old Volk homestead. In that early time of the pioneer there was no driveway in the forests south of Salt creek and John Harding and his family chopped a roadway out of the wilderness. When he located on the farm only about two acres on the two hundred and forty were cleared. Enochsburg at the very western edge of Franklin county, Indiana, had been in existence then only a short time as a frontier outpost of the coming civilization. A Mr. Longfellow and a Mr. Beach were pioneers then living at Enochsburg. The town took its name from Enoch Abraham, an uncle of James L. Harding, who came to Indiana shortly before John Harding and established a homestead and erected a log house on what is now the John Suttman place one mile east of Enochsburg, where the old house still weathers the storms of the years.

James L. Harding, who was the only child of his father's family born in Indiana was named after his mother's brother, James Abraham. Charlotte Cook, who officiated at the important event of July 3, 1842, said to call the baby Lancaster, after the town of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, named after the founder of Mrs. Cook's early childhood home, Lancaster, New Jersey, she having named her own son James Lancaster Cook, and thus was completed the name of James Lancaster Harding. During the childhood days of James L. Harding his father and elder brothers were still busy clearing and improving the farm where John Harding lived until the end of his days. Their gallant neighbors shared with them the toil of many a log-rolling on the old homestead. Among the early neighbors of John Harding in Salt Creek township, who rolled logs on his place, were the following pioneers: Ephraim Ashcraft, David Davis, Asa Davis, Harrison Dortan, Henry Kyle, William Barkley, Parkinson Barkley, Samuel Richardson, William Glidewell, Barney Shouse, Sr., Joseph Palmer, John Moody, James Moody, Joseph Moody, David Lawrence, Henry Lawrence, James Cook, Sr., Joel Colson, Robert Ross, Wash Barkley and Chris Welsh. The wife of David Lawrence and a daughter of Henry Kyle are said to be the first two persons buried in the cemetery at Roszburg. The remnants of an old wagon made by Henry Law-

rence for James L. Harding in 1865 still remain upon the Harding homestead.

John Harding's beloved wife, Susan Abraham, was a native of Bracken county, Kentucky. She was born about eight miles from the present county seat of that county and was a daughter of Benjamin and Mary Abraham, of that state. Benjamin Abraham with his family emigrated to Butler county, Ohio, and later became one of the early settlers in Franklin and Decatur counties, Indiana. Benjamin, the husband of Mary Abraham, died in Franklin county, Indiana, and he was buried in the old private cemetery on his farm, the old Ben Abraham place in Franklin county, north of Oldenburg. The Abrahams were of Scotch-Irish descent. In addition to Susan Abraham who was the mother of James L. Harding, the children and grandchildren of Benjamin and Mary Abraham were as follow: Enoch (before mentioned), whose children were Benjamin, Jr., Noah, Jr., Enoch Perry, Jackson, Mrs. Rebecca George of Adams county, Iowa, and Woodson Wilson Thompson Abraham, who died at Casey, Illinois, July 30, 1915; Noah, whose children were Sarah Jane, and James of Wells county, Indiana; Isaac; Benjamin (Benjamin and James, next named, were twins), whose children were Sarah of Chicago, Mary, James, and Nancy Sherwood; and James, whose children were Benjamin, William, Mary ("Polly") Bowman, of Franklin county, Indiana, recently deceased, Nancy Young, Rachel Weston (wife of Hugh Weston and buried at Stipp's Hill, Franklin county, Indiana), and Nathan, of Iowa; Sarah Welch, whose children were James, Isaac, Enoch, Mary, Thomas, Abisha, Florence, Fletcher and Abe, all of Jackson county, Iowa; Florence Morin, whose children were Mary Ann, Benjamin and Sarah Elizabeth, all of Mercer county, Missouri; Mrs. John Whiting, of Fayette county, Indiana; and Lot, who had one son, John, who lived and died at Maquoketa, Iowa. Of the above named grandchildren of Benjamin and Mary Abraham, the greater number are at this time (1915) deceased. The Harding and Abraham families both have always been ardent Democrats. John Harding was at one time a census enumerator in his section. He was a firm believer in the universality of religion and sought to live out in his daily life the teachings of the common faith. Of his eleven children, only two are now (1915) living, Mrs. Hester Osborn, who resides one mile west of Newport, and James L., the youngest of the family.

The other sons and daughters, deceased, of John Harding, and their children were as follow: Providence, who married Sarah Ann Johnson, of Butler county, Ohio, whose children were Mary Jane Earls, Newport, Indiana, deceased; John (whose children are Arthur, Ella, La Mond, Blanche

and Robert Harding of Cincinnati, Ohio); Rebecca Ann Hall, Paris, Illinois; Reuben, an attorney of Chicago, Illinois (deceased); Marcus, now of Hillsdale, Indiana; Mrs. Caroline Waltman, died July 1, 1915; Mary Ann Marlin (wife of Wesley Marlin and buried in the Marlin cemetery on the old Charlie Marlin farm in Franklin county, Indiana), whose children were John, Charles, Susan, Tamsen Green and Cicero; Emaline Earls; Israel, Sr., whose children were Enoch F., of Newpoint, Elizabeth Dortan, now of Washington state, Richard, of Newpoint, Nancy Graham, of Terre Haute, Indiana, George Albert, of Troy, Ohio, John, of Clarksburg, Indiana, James, of North Loop, Nebraska, died in February, 1915, Susan, deceased; Sarah, and Ed, of Newpoint; Enoch, whose children were Israel, Jr., John, Providence, Reuben, Alfred, Hester Ann, and William; Elizabeth; Hester, wife of George Osborn; Florence, wife of Albert I. Osborn, whose children were Hester Puttmann, Susan Jane Barnard, Annie and John; Harrison, whose wife was Mary Abraham Smith, now of Indianapolis; and Sophia Jane, deceased, wife of Lewis Marlin, now of Richmond, Indiana, whose children were Mary Ellen (deceased), Mollie Strohmeier, of Philanthropy, Butler county, Ohio, Olive Alyea, of Richmond, Indiana, and John, deceased.

James Lancaster Harding during his boyhood and youth was able to obtain a rather liberal education for the time in which he lived. He was educated at Rossburg and Newpoint, and, after completing his education, settled on the "east eighty" acres of his father's farm. The one-and-one-half-story log house situated at the northwest corner of this eighty acre part of the farm, in which all of the children of James L. Harding were born, was razed in the spring of 1915, after it had been carefully photographed. The present Harding home was erected in 1887, at the site of John Harding's old home.

On January 11, 1866, James L. Harding was married to Eliza Louisa Hencking (Hankins) of Franklin county, Indiana, at which time he built the log house and soon afterward moved into it. The parents of his beloved wife were Herman and Mary (Thole) Hencking, both of whom were natives of Germany. Herman Hencking took ship for America at Bremen, some time in the thirties. After spending a while in Baltimore he came westward to Cincinnati where he married Mary Thole, whose family name became well known in Cincinnati. Eliza L. Harding was born on August 22, 1844, in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she lived until her ninth year, and was baptized in the St. John's Lutheran church, of Cincinnati. She, with her parents, then removed to Newport, Kentucky. After residing there five years, she again removed with her parents, to Franklin county, Indiana, where she lived until

her marriage in 1866. Her father, Herman Hencking, was born in August, 1814, in Germany and died on October 30, 1892, on the Hencking homestead, east of Newpoint, at the edge of Franklin county. Her mother, Mary (Thole) Hencking was born in Germany, on March 25, 1821, and died on August 18, 1899, on the homestead in Franklin county. Eliza Louisa Harding had one brother, Ed, deceased, and one sister, Mary, wife of Eli Snedeker and also deceased. The father and mother of Mrs. Harding were buried in the Huntersville German Lutheran cemetery at Batesville, Indiana.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. James L. Harding, and the grandchildren, are as follow: George Edward, born on December 27, 1866, who was married on November 24, 1892, to Electa Coon, of Osgood, Indiana, to whom were born six children, Walter O., Edward, Lewis J., Chester D., Juanita, and Mary Elizabeth; Ira Melvin, November 18, 1868; Charles Milton, April 17, 1870; Augustus Clifford, June 25, 1872; Evert and Ella (twins), February 24, 1875, died in infancy; Oscar Judson, March 5, 1876; Lewis Albert, February 1, 1880, and Grover Cleveland (Clyde), July 23, 1884. Of these, Augustus C., a man steady and reliable in his business lives in Indianapolis; Ira M. faithfully assists his father in the agriculture of the homestead; Charles M., a man noted for his thrift and skill of hand, manages much of the business of the homestead for his father, and because of his prudence and good judgment, his wide reading, knowledge and live interest in affairs, contributes his talents as a most valuable citizen in the community in which he lives; Lewis A. is an active man of affairs in public life, and is now serving his second term as prosecuting attorney of the ninth judicial circuit of Indiana, at Columbus.

Eliza Louisa Harding, wife of James L. Harding, died when she was a comparatively young woman. The appropriate scripture reading at her funeral was Proverbs 31:10-31. Her obituary, read by the Rev. G. W. Bower, who conducted the services at Rossburg, contained the following tribute offered by one of her sons:

"Wife, mother, and neighbor, she lived the even tenor of her life with busy thrift, and ruled her home with counsel wise and kindly, loving words. Her ways were ways of pleasantness and all her paths were peace.

"Alas! that strange affliction should becloud her closing days. She struggled for six long years with patient hope, and endured what she alone could tell. On May 1, 1901, she peacefully succumbed to death, age fifty-six years, eight months and nine days. The Master called and she was well prepared to die.

"Loved one, wife, mother, friend—thy troubles and trials are over now.



Rest, mother, rest. We have gone down with thee to the dark valley; but thou hast left us and crossed 'over the river to rest under the shade of the trees.' "

Oscar J. Harding, died on December 11, 1902. "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report," he thought on those things. By his life well did he, indeed, prove the saying that a wise son maketh a glad father.

Grover C. Harding began his career in educational work in which he had a particular interest and for which he possessed an exceptional faculty, but like one of his first teachers in school, he had to leave that work in manhood's early morning. His purposes and ideals were high and he got his first inspiration for this work perhaps from a brother of Superintendent Jacob G. Collicott, of the Indianapolis schools, the late Harmin R. Collicott, who taught school at Rossburg. Lewis A. Harding and Grover C. Harding were two of the latter's students, and the good influence of that teacher will go on and on in the lives and souls of all who were fortunate enough to learn the lessons both of books and of life which that one man taught in the little school at Rossburg. Grover C. Harding was graduated from the Newpoint high school on April 20, 1897. In the course of his oration entitled "Value of An Education," which he gave on that occasion he said:

"Education does not mean cramming our heads with 'book learning,' but our moral training as well. Our state would rather see us ignorant Christians than educated criminals. \* \* \* Many treat the subject of education too lightly. They do not realize the bearing it will have on after life." He died on July 19, 1905.

The eldest son, George E. Harding, died at Osgood, Indiana, September 13, 1905. His obituary stated regarding him: "He was a man who looked faithfully to the interests of his home, his wife, and his children. He always sought the betterment of the community in which he lived and spent his days in industry and thrift."

A general survey of the genealogy of the Harding family shows that one of the knights in the train of William the Conqueror, 1066, was named Harding, or Hardyng, as it was spelled. Sometimes there is a final "e," Hardyng.

It seems that the name, a compound of "har" or "here" and "ing," means the place where an army camps. "Here" is army and "ing" a meadow. Much curious data is found in books devoted to surnames, and in a list of names which are peculiar, to say the least, we find that one Harding, of Lewes, was graceful. He figures in the list as "Graceful Harding of Lewes." Others of a like kind are "Fight-the-Good-Fight-of-Faith White" and "Weep Not Billing." Hardyng, who was one companion of William, and founded

the family which flourishes in Kent, Warwick, Devonshire and Derbyshire, was "of royal blood." One of the learned men of his time was Thomas Harding, of Combe Martin, Devonshire. In the Visitation of Derbyshire the descent is given from Nicholas Harding, of Knewton, who had Robert. His son, Nicholas, was the father of Robert, who had a son, Nicholas, born in 1662. Sir Robert, of Nottinghamshire, and Knewton, or King's Newton, was knighted at Whitehall, February 2, 1674. John Harding of this lineage was born in 1686, was prominent in the political life of England and member of Exchequer, 1715. William Harding, of Surrey, who died in 1503, had a son, William, by his wife, Catherine, daughter of Sir John White, Lord Mayor of London, 1563. The son, William, dying without children, his sister, Mary, became the heiress of William Harding, her father. Mary married Sir Robert Georges and became the mother of eight. As far as the Harding lineage is concerned, she, of course, plays no part in the Harding records. Mary's sister, Elizabeth, married John Buckland, "of an ancient family." Sir Robert Gorges was born of Sir Ferdinando Gorges and his wife, Ann Bell. One Robert Gorges was living in Plymouth Bay Colony in 1623. He was Sir Robert, or near kin to him. After his death his land in Plymouth went to his brother, John. Sir Ferdinando Gorges's second wife (but not the mother of his children) was Eleanor, Marchioness of Northampton, and widow of William Parr, Marquis, who was the brother of Catherine Parr, one of the Queens of Henry VIII.



HARDING COAT-OF-ARMS.

The Harding coat of arms is blazoned: Argent, a bend sable, with three martlets, or, crest, a falcon displayed, proper. This coat armor is ascribed to the Thomas Harding who was prominently connected with the settlement of Virginia.

"Colonial Gentry" gives an account of that branch of the Harding family which lives in Somerset county at Milverton, near Taunton. George Rogers Harding, who was born in Somerset county and had a political appointment in Queensland, was the son of George Harding, of Devonshire. The Morris and Winter are allied families. Nicholas Harding, "of Kingston-upon-Thames, Esquire," was born in 1772. His daughter, Jane, married Henry Pelham, of Sussex, and had Anne, who married Thomas Papillon. Monuments to the memory of both may be seen in Acrise church, Kent. Of Frances, daughter of Thomas Papillon, it is recorded that she was "a servant of Christ and friend of the poor."

A member of the Harding family contributes the following data: "As I am informed, the Hardings were prominent in Virginia and in Massachusetts. In Virginia they were called 'Cavaliers,' and Augusta county was their home. My grandfather, John Harding, was not a first settler, for he was born in Virginia. He left there while a lad in company with his father, and uncle Samuel and others, when the country was a wilderness. The party came through Kentucky, staying there long enough to help clear a farm. Thence they crossed the Ohio river at Cincinnati and settled in Butler county, Ohio, where another farm was cleared, and there John Harding raised his family. All were born there except my father, who is a Hoosier product, and proud of the fact. My grandfather often talked of that journey through the wilderness, of its incidents and trials, and the perilous trip across the mountains. Their principal food was the deer they killed. Their passage was so slow that many times they were obliged to go back and get fire to start their supper from their previous night's camp. They were sixteen or eighteen days crossing the mountain—slow going, the travel of those old pioneers. At times they unhitched their horses and pulled the wagons, one part at a time, up the steep precipices."

John Harding, of Virginia and Ohio, married Susan Abraham, who was born in Kentucky. Her parents settled in Butler county, Ohio, about the time the Hardings made their home there, and near the "Dry Fork of the White-water." Thomas Harding was one of the Virginia pioneers. He is put down in old records as prominently connected with the settlement of Virginia and from London, "member of an ancient family." In New England we find the Hardings in Massachusetts and Vermont, where they contracted marriages with the Vintons, Gibbs, Waldos, Marceys and Maxhams. Rev. Alpheus Harding, of New Salem, Massachusetts, was in the War of 1812 as chaplain.

We also find that the Hardings belong in Pennsylvania. John Harding, of Germantown, of English stock, had a son, John. Saunders and Haws

are allied families, and the goodly number of nine daughters—all lovely girls, we may rest assured—and two sons is the count in one household. All histories of Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, have records of the Hardings as worthy pioneers, who always were to the fore in affairs demanding executive ability.

The Hardin (no "g") family of Kentucky became Western pioneers. Asa Hardin, the father of ten, and born in Kentucky, went to Illinois. Allied families include the Stith, Reager, Rucker and Butler families. Benjamin Hardin, famed as an orator and lawyer, was the son of Benjamin Hardin, of Kentucky, and his wife, Sarah, who was also his cousin, the daughter of Colonel John Hardin. Wat Hardin was also a famous Kentucky lawyer and orator. It is in Kentucky that Hardin is the usual form of the name. Steve Harding, of Milan, Indiana, was appointed the first territorial governor of Utah by Abraham Lincoln.

An allied family is that of Barbour. The Barbours were from Virginia, and an early father was a burgess. Major James Barbour was in the War of 1812. Brigadier-General Martin Hardin, United States senator and secretary of the state of Kentucky in 1812, was a remarkably brilliant man and a splendid soldier. He belonged to the fifth generation of a race of soldiers. He married Elizabeth Logan. Stuarts, Chinns and Clays are allied families. The Hardings, as well as the Hardins, have their soldiers, bold and true, ready to sacrifice all save honor for home and country. Gen. William Harding is one of the soldiers of the family, and there is a connection with the Jackson family, through the marriage of Selene, daughter of General Harding, to Gen. William Jackson, born in Virginia.

General Jackson's home was Belle Meade Farm, Tennessee, where he died a few years ago. He was a West Point graduate. Judge Howell, brother of General Jackson, married Mary Elizabeth, sister of Selene Harding. The mother of Selene and Mary Elizabeth was Elizabeth Irwin McGavock. The father of Gen. William Harding, was John, who married Susannah Shute. The general, who had three other daughters and a son, William, is called a scholar and soldier, and a gentleman. Family connections of this branch of the Harding family include the Langhorns, Whites, Kents and Campbells. Gen. William Campbell, of Revolutionary fame, belongs here.

Of the Hardings of Mississippi, Lyming Harding was prominent, and one of the securities for Aaron Burr's appearance at the superior court at the time of his arrest, when he was compelled to surrender to the authorities and was conducted under guard to Washington, Mississippi, the seat of government of the territory. Burr gave his recognizance in the sum of five thousand



dollars, with Col. Benaiah Osmon and Lyming Harding as securities. This was when Aaron Burr was on his way to seize Mexico and make it his personal empire. He was a guest of Colonel Harding at Windy Hill manor, and during his sojourn there he became infatuated with the beautiful Madeline and impetuously made love to her. "She was a miracle of beauty," and good as beautiful.

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#### WALTER HUNGERFORD.

Seldom do we find a family living in the rural sections of the middle West, which is able to trace its ancestry, not only to the earliest wars of this country, but to the ancestral home in the country, from which the family came to America. The Hungerfords are a notable exception. In a straight line of descent the family is traceable to Lord Walter Hungerford, who was lord treasurer of England under Henry VI. The family originated near Bath and Trowbridge, England, and owned many thousands of acres of agricultural and hunting lands, villages, schools and churches. Farleigh Castle, now called Farleigh-Hungerford, is the old ancestral home in England. The family was quite prominent in England during the War of the Roses, the motto on the ancient seal of the Hungerfords being the Latin phrase "*Et Dieu mon appuy*," or "God, my protector."

Walter Hungerford, the cashier of the St. Paul Bank at St. Paul, Indiana, which was organized on December 10, 1904, is a direct descendant of Lord and Lady Hungerford, of Farleigh Castle. A native of Rush county, Indiana, he was born on a farm, July 13, 1873, the son of Orlando and Margaret (Knapp) Hungerford, both of whom were natives of Rush county, the former born in 1852 and the latter in 1854. Orlando Hungerford is a son of Calvin Hungerford, a native of Connecticut and a scion of an old colonial family of Connecticut, who was born on December 10, 1811, and who died on June 23, 1867. The latter married Eleanor Sefton, who was born on October 18, 1818, and died on February 1, 1892. Calvin Hungerford was the son of Richard Hungerford, who was born on December 28, 1788, and died in 1870. Richard Hungerford was the son of Lemuel and Abigail (Beebe) Hungerford, the former of whom was born on February 21, 1761, and who died on February 21, 1846, and the latter born on July 10, 1761, and died on January 27, 1842. Lemuel was the son of Lemuel Hungerford, Sr., who was born on May 23, 1733, and who married Sarah Stewart. Lemuel, Sr., was the son of Green Hungerford, who

married Jemima Richardson, and Green Hungerford was the son of Thomas and Mary Hungerford, the former of whom died in 1714. Thomas Hungerford moved from New London, Connecticut, to Haddam, Connecticut, in 1692. He was granted a section of land and was first selectman or mayor of Haddam. By trade he was a blacksmith and nailmaker. Capt. Zachariah Hungerford was commander of Ft. Trumbull and Ft. Griswold, on the Connecticut river, during the Revolutionary War. The family's church burying lot in Haddam shows a massive slab, bearing the inscription, "A Son of the Revolution." Thirteen Hungerfords from Connecticut fought in the Revolutionary War and this was only a part of the family who served in this great conflict. Benjamin Hungerford was second lieutenant in the First Company of the Fourth Regiment; David was long a prisoner at Fort Washington; Elijah was a "minute man" who volunteered in 1776; James was a soldier of East Haddam; Thomas H, was captain of the Fifteenth Militia; Uriah was a surgeon at Long Island; Uriah was a piper, and Zachariah a surgeon. John, Joseph, Nathaniel, Oliver and Stephen were also soldiers. William E. Hungerford was one of the first of the family to come to America. He had a beautiful home and estate on the banks of the Connecticut river. At his death, his remains were taken back to England and buried in Salisbury cathedral, where the twin tombs of Lord Walter and Lady Hungerford are still shown.

Richard Hungerford came from Connecticut to Indiana, in the early twenties of the last century, settling in Rush county, where he took up government land in tracts of one hundred and sixty acres each for each of his five children. Orlando Hungerford resided in Rush county until his marriage and then moved to Shelby county in 1875, locating near Blue Ridge, where he prospered. He became a large landowner and is one of the wealthiest citizens of this section today. To his union with Margaret Knapp three children were born: Walter, cashier of the bank at St. Paul, who is the subject of this sketch; Pearl, a farmer near St. Paul; and Dora, assistant cashier in the bank of St. Paul. Orlando Hungerford lives just across the line in Shelby county.

Walter Hungerford was educated in the common schools of Blue Ridge, in Rush county, and spent two years in the Marion Normal College at Marion, Indiana. He then followed farming until 1904, when he came to Decatur county, locating at St. Paul, where he opened the St. Paul Bank on December 10, 1904. This bank has had a remarkable growth since its opening for business and this growth is largely due to the enterprise, industry and good management of its cashier. Mr. Hungerford is a man of

engaging personality, cordial in his relations with the patrons of the bank, the depositors, directors and officers, as well as the public generally.

Walter Hungerford has been twice married, first in 1894, to Zora K. Yarling, the sister of Senator Yarling, of Shelby county. She died in November, 1904, leaving two sons, Donald, who was born on May 28, 1896, and George, October 2, 1898. By the second marriage, on December 10, 1905, to Mrs. Nellie Kelso, of St. Paul, there has been no issue. Mrs. Hungerford is the daughter of Mrs. Colvil E. Pearce, a widow of this county.

Mr. Hungerford is a Democrat but has never been active in political circles. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Waldron and of the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at St. Paul. He and his wife are members of the Christian church. They occupy a splendid residence in St. Paul. Walter Hungerford is known in this community as a fine fellow, cultured and progressive, a good citizen and a very pleasant gentleman.

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#### FRED E. MULFORD.

After various attempts by local boys to work the hot sandwich business at nights on the streets of Greensburg, there finally came an outsider from the neighboring town of North Vernon, who has held that vocation at his will since October 19, 1899. This young man is Fred Mulford, who was born and reared at North Vernon, his birth occurring on January 13, 1874. His parents were Hoosiers, being natives, respectively, of Jennings and Dearborn counties, Indiana. Fred, as he is known by every man, woman and child for miles around, has endeavored at various times to better his condition financially, but, having engaged in a business in which he was his own boss, being sure of not getting fired off the job and having a family of five children, he did not get very far away from the sure meal-ticket provider, that of the sandwich business.

When fourteen years of age, Fred Mulford learned to lath with the plasterers and follows that line of work steadily at North Vernon, Charlestown and at Memphis, Tennessee. He also turned a number of jobs at Greensburg and elsewhere in Decatur county. This led him into taking a complete course in architecture with the Scranton International Correspond-

ence School. He became very proficient in this line of work. He was the agitator and furnished sketches for the improvement of the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church at Greensburg. Though the building committee used other plans, Mr. Mulford received compensation for the time previously spent in getting the work under way. He also drew several sets of plans for different buildings in Greensburg, but, because of real estate deals, they were not carried out and built upon. It was because of his drafting ability that he was mentioned to the publishers of this work as being capable of drawing the maps used herein. His ability is displayed in the complete maps of the county and the nine townships, with all farms platted according to the spring assessor's platting in 1915.

It was during the progress of this work that a tragedy occurred that was a sad blow to Mr. Mulford and family and the entire community. Mr. Mulford went to Indianapolis on June 5, 1915, to submit his work to the publishers, according to previous contract. Wishing to show his little five-and-one-half-year-old daughter, Alma Alleen, a pleasant day's outing, he took her with him to the city. From the B. F. Bowen Company offices, Mr. Mulford and his little daughter went to the Century building in Indianapolis, where they took the elevator for the eighth floor. Directly after entering the elevator, another passenger entered and the elevator started up. This passenger got off at the third floor. The operator started the car up and attempted to close the screen door. Alma Alleen, who was standing at the side and partly back of her father, seeing the door still standing open, thought it was her getting-off place. She hurried out, and, as the car was at least fifteen inches above the floor level, missed her footing, fell forward and struck her forehead. She let out a smothered scream as her other foot slipped off the elevator floor and she fell back down into the shaft three stories, on to a concrete basement floor, her skull being fractured and the right leg broken at the thigh. The accident, which would not have occurred had the operator closed the door of the elevator before starting the car, resulted in the death of little Alma Alleen, who lived just twelve hours, dying in the Deaconess hospital, at Indianapolis, just before midnight. At the coroner's inquest the passenger who left the elevator at the third floor, testified that the father was not at all to blame, and that the operator had failed to close the door before starting the car.

Mr. Mulford's family consists of his wife, Cora, one daughter, Harriet Thelma, and three sons, David Sherman, Irvin Gaylord and Glen Emmert, all of whom were born in Greensburg, as was also little Alma Alleen, who met so sudden a death.



## THOMAS EDGAR HAMILTON.

A great movement cannot be built on one little ship—the “Mayflower.” It takes a lot of ships and a big lot of people to make a commonwealth. A pyramid cannot be built on its apex, nor a great nation on one ship. Plymouth and Salem and Boston; Providence, Hartford and New Haven; Manhattan, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Jamestown, Raleigh, Charleston and Savannah are the bright and shining stars of the Pilgrim immigration to America; and the Brotherhood of Separationists, of Puritans, of Dutch burgomasters, of Roman Catholic freemen, of Philadelphia Quakers, of Virginia planters, of Carolina descendants of Locke and of Georgia Huguenots illustrate the fact that one type of motive makes the world akin. The above typical lovers of freedom whose crowning act was the wresting from the home government of independence for the thirteen original colonies have many descendants in this county, families of Revolutionary descent being naturally very common in a district whose early settlement followed so soon after the westward movement of many soldiers of the Revolution. Few of these families have a wider connection in this county or a more distinguished descent than the Hamilton family, to which the gentleman whose name is noted above is attached, and it is a pleasure for the biographer to set out here something of Thomas Edgar Hamilton's career in the county in which he was born and in which his whole life has been spent.

Thomas Edgar Hamilton, a well-known farmer of Washington township, this county, whose well-tilled farm adjoins the city of Greensburg on the north, was born in Clinton township, this county, April 19, 1853, but has lived on his present farm, in the fine brick mansion built by his father in 1864, for fifty years. This substantial old mansion was constructed of brick, and the fine old trees which surround the house and the ivy-covered driveways leading thereto speak volumes for the loving care which is bestowed upon it by its present occupants. Mr. Hamilton is a son of Thomas George and Eliza Jane (Lewis) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in Nicholas county, Kentucky, in 1819, and died at his home in this county of March 13, 1870, and the latter of whom was a daughter of Dr. M. Lewis, a pioneer physician of this county, who came here in the year 1823 and helped to lay out the town of Greensburg. Thomas G. Hamilton's brothers, William W. and Samuel R., also were residents of this county. Another brother, Cincinnatus, remained in Kentucky.

Thomas George Hamilton was a son of Col. William Hamilton, who drilled a company for service in the War of 1812. Col. William Hamilton,

who married Polly Bernau, was born in 1792 and died in 1878; was born, spent his whole life and died on the ancestral home in Kentucky. He was a son of Thomas Hamilton, a native of Virginia and a pioneer settler in Kentucky. Thomas Hamilton was a son of William Hamilton, another of whose sons, William Hamilton, Jr., lost his life while battling for independence during the Revolutionary War. Thomas G. Hamilton came to Decatur county in 1845 and after a short residence in Greensburg, where he made his home with a brother who had preceded him to this state, he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres south of town, where he resided two years, at the end of which time he bought a farm of three hundred and seventy-six acres in Clinton township, on which he resided until 1865, in which year he bought the farm adjoining the town of Greensburg on the north now owned and occupied by his son, Thomas E. This farm is well improved and very productive, being one of the choicest farms in Decatur county. One section of this land, one hundred and sixty acres, originally was owned by William Kingstone, a grant to him from the government in 1814, in recognition of his services in the French and Indian wars. He sold the section for four hundred dollars, being, no doubt, well satisfied with what probably was considered a "bargain" in those days. Needless to say, that one hundred and sixty acres of land has increased in value fifty-fold since the day William Kingstone pocketed his four hundred dollars.

Thomas G. Hamilton married Eliza Jane Lewis, born in 1828, died in 1872, to which union were born three sons, William Lewis, who lives at Indianapolis; Thomas Edgar, the immediate subject of this sketch, and John Livingston, a well-known farmer of this county. In connection with his extensive farming operations, Thomas G. Hamilton was the pioneer dealer in mules in this county, buying and selling large numbers of these patient animals. He was a Democrat and was prominent in the political affairs of the county, being one of the best-known and most influential men of this section in his day. He and his wife were devoted members of the Presbyterian church and their sons were reared in that faith.

Thomas E. Hamilton was reared on the paternal farm and received his education in the district schools and the Greensburg high school. He early devoted himself to farming and now has one hundred and fifty-two acres and also owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Clinton township, this county. Mr. Hamilton is an intelligent, useful citizen, "honest to the core," as his neighbors delight to phrase it, and is doing most excellent service on behalf of the public in the responsible position of a member of the county council, to which office he was elected in 1914 and in which he is

doing his duty honestly, conscientiously and with an eye single to the public good. He is an able executor and has been administrator and trustee for several large estates in this county, a form of service in which he gave the utmost satisfaction, and has done and is doing his full duty, as he sees it, as a faithful, efficient and capable man of affairs.

On November 20, 1879, Thomas E. Hamilton was united in marriage to Ida May Wooden, daughter of the late Dr. John L. Wooden, a one-time well-known physician of Greensburg, whose genealogy is set out elsewhere in this volume in the biographical sketch relating to her brother, Elmer E. Wooden, a retired merchant of Greensburg, and to this union one child was born, a daughter, Florence M., who is living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton and their daughter are members of the Presbyterian church and are devoted to the good works of the community in which their lives have been spent in faithful and loving service. Mr. Hamilton is a Democrat and is prominent in the councils of his party in this county, his sound judgment and keen executive ability giving to his counsels much weight in the deliberations of the party managers. He is a good citizen, one whom all his fellow citizens delight to honor.

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#### EDWARD W. DAVIS.

Visible for miles in every direction, the new residence of Edward W. Davis stands as a veritable landmark in the northwestern part of Clay township, this county. Mr. Davis' recently completed home, which was erected at a cost of something more than seven thousand dollars, is one of the most complete and thoroughly-appointed farm houses in Decatur county, fitting evidence of the enterprise and good taste of the owners. Mr. and Mrs. Davis are very popular in the community in which they live and their new home promises to be the center of much cordial hospitality. The Davis home is a modern nine-room house erected on a pleasant eminence on the Davis farm of more than three hundred acres in Clay township, from which a view of all that picturesque region for miles about is obtainable; one of the most desirable sites in the county. The house is piped for gas, both for lighting and heating, the gas being secured from a high-pressure well on the Davis farm, and is equipped with a complete water system, with hot and cold running water throughout; nothing having been neglected in making up the plans for this house to secure the greatest degree of comfort and convenience for the



EDWARD W. DAVIS AND FAMILY.





occupants thereof. Mr. Davis has two dwellings on his farm, part of which farm lies in Decatur county and part in Shelby county, and during the time of the erection of the new house he and his family lived in the house just over the line in the latter county. The Davis farm is one of the most fertile thereabout and is well provided with all the necessary improvements in accordance with the latest dictates of agricultural science and, under the thorough-going system of farming adopted by Mr. Davis, has proved very productive. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Davis is an extensive breeder of live stock, having shipped as much as twenty-seven hundred dollars' worth of hogs and eight hundred dollars' worth of cattle in a year. Besides his farm of three hundred and twelve acres surrounding his home. Mr. Davis is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Daviess county, this state, making his land holdings five hundred and ninety-two acres in all.

Edward W. Davis was born on a farm in Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, on March 28, 1876, the son of James and Sarah E. (Braden) Davis, the former of whom was a native of Ireland and the latter of this county, daughter of Jack Braden, a Kentuckian, one of the best-known pioneer residents of Clay township; the man who built the first blacksmith shop in the town of Greensburg, a reference to whom may be found on several pages of this volume of biography, particularly in the biographical sketch relating to Charles Templeton, whose wife is a sister of Mr. Davis. James Davis was twenty years of age when he left Ireland to make his fortune in the land of the free across the Atlantic. Upon arriving in this country he proceeded to Cincinnati and for some time was engaged in freighting between Cincinnati and Brookville, this state. He presently located in Decatur county and became very wealthy, owning at one time as much as three thousand acres of land. No man in the county was better known than he. He had more than a local fame as a trader and was an exceedingly energetic and enterprising person.

Edward W. Davis received his education in the local district school and has always lived in the neighborhood of his present home. Following his marriage in 1903, he moved onto his present farm, remodeling a three-room house, which then stood on the place, into a nice residence and in this he lived until his present fine new home was completed. Inheriting much of the energy and enterprise of his father, Mr. Davis has been quite successful in his farming operations and is looked upon as one of the substantial men of the county.

On January 3, 1903, Edward W. Davis was united in marriage to Ella

Lawson, who was born in Kentucky on June 10, 1879, daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann (Ross) Lawson, both of whom died in Kentucky. Ella Lawson came to this county on a visit to the family of her brother, Frank Lawson, and here she met Mr. Davis, their marriage following not long after. To this union one child has been born, a son, James Edward, born on October 18, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are members of the United Brethren church and are devoted to the good works of the community in which they live, being looked upon as among the leaders in all movements for the advancement of the common good. Mr. Davis is a Democrat and takes a warm interest in local political affairs, though not an active political worker. However, he is interested in good government and aids in every proper way the promotion of the same.

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### JOHN HENRY SCHROEDER.

The student interested in the history of Decatur county does not have to carry his investigations far into its annals before learning that John Henry Schroeder has long been one of its most active citizens, in both its mercantile and agricultural interests, and that his labors have been a potent force in advancing the interests of this locality. Mr. Schroeder has lived a useful and honorable life, a life characterized by perseverance and well-defined purpose and he has established a character as a man who measures up to the type of the good American citizen. To him there also belongs the distinction of being the oldest resident of Decatur county.

John Henry Schroeder, who lives on a farm adjoining the town of Enochsburg, Salt Creek township, was born in Germany, November 19, 1822, the son of Frank and Mary Elizabeth Schroeder, who came to America two years after their son had located here. When John H. Schroeder was about fourteen years of age, in 1836, enthused by the wonderful stories of the great possibilities in the United States for a young man of ambition and energy, he came to this country, locating first at Cincinnati, where he engaged in common labor. He also worked in a store for five years. In 1841 he went to Louisville, Kentucky, where, for five years, he was employed in a store, and in 1846 went to Missouri, and clerked in a store at Lottsport. Two years later he returned to Louisville and after a residence there of one year came to Decatur county in 1849, locating in Enochsburg, where he established a store, which he operated with considerable success for about

eight years. It was at a period antedating the advent of railroads in this section of the state and it was necessary to bring his stock of goods from Cincinnati. On one occasion when he was sending a wagon load of dressed hogs to the Cincinnati market and while crossing a stream near Harrison, the ice broke and the valuable team of horses which he was driving was drowned. When he discontinued his store at Enochsburg, Mr. Schroeder located on the farm where he now lives and which comprises two hundred and seven acres of valuable land. He has resided there for about forty years and has worked a wonderful transformation in the condition of the place. At the time he moved upon it there were no improvements of any kind and it was necessary for him to cut timber in order to erect his buildings. He since then has done strenuous labor, but despite his hard luck he is now, at the advanced age of ninety-three years, remarkably well preserved, both physically and mentally. He has always taken a keen interest in local affairs and has lent his aid to the advancement of all worthy propositions and to the raising of the standard of living. While living in Enochsburg he served two years as trustee of the township, and one term as appraiser and was in other ways prominent in the affairs of his neighborhood. During the Mexican War, Mr. Schroeder assisted in organizing a company for service and also helped to organize a military company during the Civil War.

On February 8, 1849, Mr. Schroeder was married to Elizabeth Tuka, who was born in Germany on September 8, 1828, and who passed away in March, 1894. She came to America, locating in Louisville when fourteen years of age and her marriage to Mr. Schroeder occurred at Enochsburg. To Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder were born the following children: Henry H., Henry, deceased; Everhard Henry, October 9, 1852, who died in 1905; John G., November 17, 1854, who lives three miles south of Greensburg and who is married and has four sons, John, Edward, Frank and Gregory; John Ambrosius, deceased; Herman Henry, October 24, 1858, was married, July 13, 1897, to Rosa Sandroek; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Northorst, of New Albany, is the mother of three children, Joseph, Rosa and Henry; Louisa Zizilia, December, 1862; Mrs. Annie Frances Thea, of Posey county, who has seven children, Rosa, Elizabeth, Joseph, Clara, Frances, Julia and Anthony; Rosa Clara Wessels died in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 23, 1899, at the age of thirty-two years, leaving four children, Lizzie, Bennie, Edward and Rosa. John Henry Schroeder also has four great-grandchildren, namely: Joseph and Leonard, sons of his grandson, John; and Richard and Paul, sons of Joseph Morthorst.



Mr. Schroeder has been a life-long adherent of the principles of the Democratic party, having cast his first Presidential vote for Henry Clay and has voted for every Democratic presidential candidate since. His religious affiliation is with the Enochsburg Catholic church, of which he is a liberal supporter.

As the oldest resident of Decatur county, J. H. Schroeder has seen his county develop from a sparsely settled community to its present prosperous condition, and has performed a very important part in helping to bring about the advanced standing of the locality. Though now in the evening of life, he is still hale and hearty and enjoys life with the zest of a far younger man. His long residence in this section has given him a great number of friends, by whom he is held in the highest esteem for his many commendable traits of character.

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#### OMER T. MANLIEF.

Ripley county, Indiana, has furnished many of the present generation of enterprising farmers in Decatur county. It is not difficult to explain why many of the more ambitious young farmers of Ripley county have come to Decatur, the principal reason being, according to all loyal Decatur county folk, that the soil in Decatur county is far superior to that in Ripley county. Of the many native-born sons of Ripley county, who have sought a home and fortune in Decatur county, Omer T. Manlief, of Marion township, who came here more than forty years ago, may be mentioned.

Omer T. Manlief, who owns one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land in Marion township, Decatur county, was born on July 17, 1849, in Ripley county, Indiana, the son of Benjamin and Catherine (Ruble) Manlief, of German descent, both of whom died in Ripley county.

After coming to Decatur county in 1873, at the age of twenty-four, Omer F. Manlief purchased eighty acres of land at ten dollars an acre, paying cash for the tract. At this time the land was covered with timber. Immediately after purchasing this tract, he built a log house of two rooms in which he and his family lived for twenty years, or until they built their present home. During the first year or two after coming to Decatur county, Mr. Manlief rented cleared land, which he cultivated and worked at odd times and at night to clear his own land. In 1910 he purchased eighty acres of land situated across the road from his original tract, paying for the same twenty-four hundred dollars. He ordinarily has about forty acres of

corn and about the same amount of wheat. He now has a good home with well-kept and well-painted buildings and with many fruit and shade trees, which add greatly to the attractiveness of the place.

In 1872 Omer T. Manlief was married to Mary Elizabeth Suter, of Dearborn county, who was born on January 13, 1852, the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Ann Suter. To this union three children have been born, all of whom are married and now have children of their own: Mrs. Edna Leo Lena Surface, of Westport, who has five children, Omer, Ollie, Anna, Erra and Birdie; Clyde, a farmer of Jennings county, who married Mary Shumach and has one daughter, Martha; and Carl, who farms at home, married Stella Rathburn and has two children, Woodrow Lowson and Ruth.

Mr. Manlief is a Democrat but has never been active in politics, preferring to devote his time and his energy to his own personal and private business. The Manlief family are all members of the Baptist church and Mr. Manlief is a liberal contributor to the support of this faith.

By prodigious industry, most economical living and careful management, Omer T. Manlief has accumulated a snug fortune in farm property and is recognized today as one of the foremost citizens of Marion township. He well deserves the confidence of the public because he has won that confidence by his own personal efforts.

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#### JOHN R. COLLINS.

During recent years much has been written and said regarding intensive farming in this country. The apparent inexhaustibility of the soil of this favored land for generations caused the tillers of the soil to display an almost disdainful laxity in the matter of the proper upkeep of the same, with the very natural result that in time many once valuable farms became worthless, by reason of being worn out, and were abandoned. Then came the demand for scientific fertilization and intensive farming; agriculturists all over the land began to wake up to the importance of keeping the soil alive, and the result has been the raising of crops that would have been deemed impossible by the pioneers, even in the days of the soil's virgin fertility. Much has been done along this line in Decatur county, though it must be admitted that there still remains very much yet to be done. There is one farmer, however, who has cultivated his land to such advantage that he has become recognized among his neighbors as the most successful farmer in the county;

a measure of praise which he by no means courts, but which is ungrudgingly given him by those who have noted with much interest the results of his labors. Though the possessor of but a small acreage, his place consisting of eighty acres in all, John R. Collins, of Salt Creek township, is widely known as the man who raises the bumper crops in this county and his methods have attracted much attention, the spirit of emulation thus created undoubtedly having resulted in the elevation of the standards of farming throughout the whole county. As an example of the intensive methods adopted by Mr. Collins, it may be mentioned that at one time he spent one thousand dollars for tile with which to drain a tract of forty acres. Those who may have looked askance at such an apparently extravagant expenditure altered their opinion when this tract was found to be producing seventy-five bushels of corn to the acre. As this was written this tract was bearing a luxuriant stand of wheat which promised to break all local records for yield. In 1912 Mr. Collins sold seed corn for two dollars a bushel to his admiring neighbors and he has raised as high as eighty bushels of corn to the acre. The title of most successful farmer in Decatur county, therefore, very properly may be applied to him, notwithstanding his modest disclaimer of any such distinction.

John R. Collins was born in Jennings county, this state, near the town of Brewersville, on July 29, 1857, the son of John Roberts Parsons and Nancy Jane (Roszell) Collins, the former of whom was born in 1823 and died on July 29, 1911, and the latter of whom was born on June 2, 1832, and died on July 13, 1895. John Roberts Parsons Collins was a native of Scotland and, with a sister, was brought to this country when quite young by his mother. The father was to follow his family to this country on a vessel sailing later, but never again was heard from and it was supposed that he was lost at sea. Mr. Collins's mother died shortly after coming to America and her son and daughter were reared by their maternal grandparents, who some years before had come to this country, locating at Oxford, Ohio. There J. R. P. Collins lived until he was fifteen years of age, at which time he moved to Jennings county, this state. He had been apprenticed to the carpenter trade and upon locating in Jennings county he worked at this trade until the year 1862, in which year he came to Decatur county, locating in Salt Creek township, buying the farm on which his son, John R., now lives. On this place he built a log cabin and lived there until 1865, moving in that year to Pennington, where he farmed and worked at his trade the rest of his life. His death occurred in a hospital at Madison.

Nancy Jane (Roszell) Collins was born in Greensburg, this county,

daughter of John Roszell, the first blacksmith in the town of Greensburg. John Roszell was a native of Kentucky, whose father lived to be one hundred years old. He came to this county about the year 1822 and built the first blacksmith shop in the then hamlet of Greensburg. Upon arriving here he turned his wagonbed upside down, erecting around the same a barricade of brush, thus creating his first shelter in Decatur county. He married a Miss Brockman, cleared a tract of land for a home and became one of the best-known pioneer settlers of the county.

To John Roberts Parsons and Nancy Jane (Roszell) Collins were born nine children, namely: Ida, born on August 11, 1855, married W. R. Copper, of New Pennington, this county, and died in March, 1905; John R., the immediate subject of this sketch; James R., who served five years in the United States army, then became a conductor on the San Francisco street railway, serving in such a capacity for fourteen years, and has not been heard of since the San Francisco earthquake, in 1906; Anna B., principal of one of the ward schools at Indianapolis; Carvel H., of Eaton, Blackford county, Indiana; Minnie, of Indianapolis, a teacher in the schools of Elwood, this state; Albert, a successful contractor and builder in the Isle of Pines, off the coast of Cuba, and Grace, who married Edward Hatfield, of Indianapolis, and has three children.

On September 10, 1891, John R. Collins was united in marriage to Sophia Rachel Schilling, who was born in Salt Creek township, this county, daughter of William and Minnie (Harris) Schilling, natives of Germany and old residents of Salt Creek township, the former of whom was born in 1836 and died in 1899 and the latter of whom was born in 1836 and died in 1907, who were the parents of eight children, as follow: Sophia R., who married Mr. Collins; Henry, deceased; William, who lives on the old Schilling farm; Mrs. Rosa Cullicut, of this county; Mrs. Minnie Bradewater, of Salt Creek township, this county; Edward, of the same township; Lucy, deceased, and John, also of Salt Creek township.

To John R. and Sophia Rachel (Schilling) Collins have been born six children, William, aged twenty-two, who is at home ably assisting his father in the management of the farm; Edward, Ida, Minnie, Bertha and Harry, at school.

Mr. and Mrs. Collins are members of the Methodist church and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Collins is quite independent in his political views, ever giving the best citizens preference in making up his ballot. He is not a member of any of the various lodges, believing that home is man's best "lodge," and takes great pleasure and comfort in his



home. He and his good wife take a warm interest in the church and social affairs of their home community and no couple in that part of the county are held in higher regard than they. As pointed out in the beginning of this narrative, there is no better farmer anywhere in Salt Creek township than Mr. Collins, and it may be said with equal truth that no man in the township is more popular than he, or held in higher esteem.

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#### GEORGE F. REDELMAN.

One of the leading financial institutions of the eastern part of Decatur county is the First State Bank, of New Point, which was organized in 1906 as a national bank and on January 1, 1912, was converted into a state bank. The institution is housed in a commodious brick building owned by the company and is capitalized at twenty-five thousand dollars. It now has a surplus and undivided profits of thirty-five hundred dollars and deposits of one hundred thousand dollars. The officers of the bank include John Hoff, president; J. A. Meyer, vice-president, and George F. Redelman, cashier. The directors, besides the officers, include Edward A. Buckley, T. M. Clark, Joseph Kramer, J. H. Metz, Sr., Charles Risinger and Peter P. Schuh. During the last four years none of the officers has had more to do with the success and growth of this bank than its cashier, Mr. Redelman.

George F. Redelman was born on November 19, 1884, in Greensburg, this county, son of Henry M. and Sarah A. (Herman) Redelman, the former of whom was born in 1854, near Millhousen, this county, on a farm, son of Matthias Redelman, a native of Germany, and the latter of whom was born near Harris City, in Decatur county. Mrs. Sarah A. (Herman) Redelman's parents, however, were natives of Germany. Henry M. Redelman is an extensive farmer and stockman of Marion township, whose life history is told elsewhere in this volume.

Receiving his early education in the Slabtown school, in Marion township, George F. Redelman later attended the Hamburg schools, going to school in the same building and receiving instruction from the same teacher as did his father. This venerable teacher was Theodore Wilmer. After graduating from the Slabtown school when fourteen years of age, Mr. Redelman worked on the farm until twenty years old, at which time he received a license to teach school. Instead of teaching, however, he went to Indianapolis as a student of the Vorhees Business College, from which

institution he was graduated in 1905. Subsequently he worked as a bookkeeper and collector for the Badger Furniture Company at Indianapolis for one year, and was then employed on the *Indianapolis Star* for some time. In the fall of 1906 he returned to Decatur county, going to Greensburg as bookkeeper of the Greensburg National Bank, and on July 5, 1911, took charge of the First State Bank at New Point.

On June 18, 1913, Mr. Redelman was married to Lena Spitzmesser, of Greensburg, daughter of Leopold and Caroline Spitzmesser, to which union one son has been born, Robert George, born on April 19, 1914.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Redelman has never taken an active part in the councils of his party. He and his wife are members of the Enochsburg Catholic church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Knights of St. John at Greensburg.

George F. Redelman is still a very young man to be charged with important financial responsibility, and this proves better than anything else the estimation in which he is held by the people of this section. He enjoys not only the confidence and respect of the officers and directors of the First State Bank at New Point, but he has also maintained, since his connection with the bank, cordial relations with the patrons of the institution and the public generally and well deserves the high esteem in which he is held by the people of this community.

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### GEORGE A. LOGAN.

The most pretentious country house to be found anywhere in the western part of Decatur county, Indiana, is that located on the farm of George A. Logan in Clay township. This house, of nineteen rooms, is finished throughout in native wood, cut and seasoned on the farm, the walls made of bricks of clay dug on the farm, and required five years for construction, being completed about 1889. The rooms are finished in wild cherry, walnut, ash and quartered-oak, and the poplar doors are cut from native wood. Logs for the construction of the house were hauled eight miles to Burney, and the rock was quarried near Milford. Incidental material for furnishings was hauled to Greensburg and then brought back to the farm. In 1913 a beautiful concrete and brick veranda was added to the house, a veranda which circles front and sides of the house and gives it a most imposing appearance. This magnificent place is located on a farm of two hundred

and seventy-five acres of land which was given to Mr. Logan by his father, but at that time it had no improvements. Since that time Mr. Logan has erected two large barns, a double corn-crib, tool-house and garage, all of which are painted yellow. The proprietor of this splendid estate also owns seventy-five acres north of the home farm.

George A. Logan, who may be regarded as the author and finisher of this beautiful countryside home, was born on March 7, 1862, on a farm one-fourth mile from his present home, the son of John and Eliza A. (Hungate) Logan, the former of whom was born on August 14, 1829, in Decatur county, Indiana, and died on July 16, 1912, and the latter of whom was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, on June 7, 1838. The late John A. Logan was a son of early pioneers of Decatur county. Samuel and Susanna (Howard) Logan, natives of Pennsylvania, who, in 1818, came down the Ohio river on a flat boat and who, after stopping for a time in Kentucky, settled in this county. After constructing a rude log cabin, they entered land from the government, and during their lives became very prosperous. Samuel and Susanna Logan were the parents of thirteen children, among whom were James, deceased; Samuel, Jr., of Letts Corners, Decatur county; John, of Greensburg; Aaron, who lives west of Greensburg, in Washington township; Frank, of Topeka, Kansas; Martha Ann, who married a Doctor Hitt, now both deceased; Mrs. Margaret Jane Deen, deceased; Mrs. Mary Hamilton, deceased; Mrs. Rachel Hobbs, who was the wife of the Rev. Mr. Hobbs, a Christian minister, and who died at Des Moines, Iowa, in January, 1915. The late John Logan was married to Eliza A. Hungate on January 24, 1856, and after his marriage settled on a farm in Clay township, five miles west of Greensburg. They lived on the farm until in September, 1886, accumulating in the meantime seven hundred and forty acres of land. Mrs. Eliza E. (Hungate) Logan was a daughter of John and Eliza (Gregory) Hungate, natives of Kentucky, who emigrated to Shelby county, Indiana, in 1840, and who later settled in Noble township, that county, where they died. John Hungate was born in 1798, and died on September 21, 1891. His wife had passed away previously, at the age of seventy-seven. They were the parents of the following children: Andrew Jackson, George Washington and Mrs. Cynthia Jones, deceased; John, who lives on the old homestead in Shelby county, Indiana; Mrs. Eliza Logan, and Catherine, the wife of Thomas Vaughn, deceased. John Logan and wife were the parents of three children, Orange, George Andrew and Eliza. Orange owns the old homestead farm. He was born on June 10, 1857. He married Emma Gregory, a native of Kentucky, and they have two children.

Clem and Nellie. Eliza, born February 23, 1870, lives with her mother. She owns a farm of two hundred acres in Washington township.

After receiving a liberal education in the public schools of Decatur county, Indiana, George Logan took up farming and was so engaged until his marriage, on July 22, 1886, to Mary Hayman, a native of Shelby county, Indiana, daughter of Alfred and Minerva (Knight) Hayman, the former of whom was born on July 7, 1826, and who died June 29, 1887, and the latter of whom was born on October 16, 1831, and who died on May 8, 1872. Alfred and Minerva Hayman were married on March 23, 1856, in Shelby county, this state, and to this union were born two children; Everett, born on August 26, 1859, who is a resident of Waldron, and Mrs. Mary Logan, who was born on September 17, 1863.

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Logan have only one child, Harrison A., who was born on June 14, 1887. He lives at home with his parents on the farm and is engaged in farming with his father, who is extensively engaged in dairying. The dairy is located on the north farm, where Mr. Logan has a herd of Jerseys, varying from twenty to thirty in number, and ships his products to the Polk Dairy Company, of Indianapolis.

Mr. Logan is a Democrat, but has never been active in political affairs, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his agricultural interests. Mrs. Logan is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Adams and Mr. Logan is identified with Milford Lodge No. 94, Free and Accepted Masons. His son, Harrison A., is a member of the same Masonic fraternity, and of Adams lodge of Odd Fellows, and of Greensburg lodge, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and Greensburg Lodge, Improved Order of Red Men.

Mr. and Mrs. Logan are hospitable entertainers, and Mr. Logan is known in this community and throughout Decatur county as a hail fellow, well met; broad-minded, good-hearted, a hustler and an optimist.

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#### RANDOLPH STARK.

To attain a worthy citizenship by a life that is always honored and respected even from childhood deserves more than naming. One may take his place in public life through some vigorous stroke in public politics and even remain in the hearts of friends and neighbors, but to take the same position by dint of the practice of an upright life and without a craving for exaltation and popularity, is worthy of the highest praise and commendation. Probably no citizen of Decatur county occupies a higher place in the esteem



of the community at large than "Uncle" Randolph Stark, of New Point, Salt Creek township. He is respected and honored by all who know him because of his exemplary daily life, each day having been one above criticism and passed upon in the light of true manhood. Strong and forceful in his relations with his fellowmen, he has not only made his presence felt, but has also gained the good will and confidence of his associates and the general public, ever retaining his reputation among men for integrity and high character, no matter how trying the circumstances, and never losing that dignity which is the birthright of a gentleman.

Randolph Stark, now retired and living in the pleasant little village of New Point, was born on October 14, 1838, in Clermont county, Ohio, and is the son of John and Charity (Meeker) Stark, natives of New York and New Jersey, respectively. John Stark was the son of John Stark, whose father was Gen. John Stark, of Revolutionary fame, whose words, "There are the redcoats! We must beat them today or Mollie Stark is a widow," are historical. In 1850 John and Charity Stark came from Ohio to Indiana, settling in Salt Creek township, Decatur county, where they resided nearly a half century, their deaths occurring in 1889. They were the parents of the following children: Mary Jane, deceased; Mrs. Sarah Jane Hollensbe, of Clarksburg; Mrs. Harriet Morrow, of Hidalgo, Illinois; Leander, who died in 1891; Alvira, deceased; Randolph, the subject of this sketch; James, who died in 1912; William H., of New Point, this county; John P., who died at the age of twelve years; Charles Foster, deceased; and Mrs. Maria Sample and Mrs. Melissa Freeland, twins, both deceased. John Stark followed the dual occupation of farmer and lumberman and was successful in both. He was a man of splendid qualities of character and stood high in the community where he so long resided.

Randolph Stark was reared under the parental roof and received his education in the district schools. At the early age of eighteen years, he engaged in the lumber business on his own account and was in partnership with his brother, Leander, for many years. They owned the New Point mills for over twenty years and at one time operated many mills scattered over different counties, the firm of Stark Brothers being one of the most important concerns of its kind in southern Indiana. So widely recognized is Mr. Stark's connection with the growth of New Point that he is frequently called "The Father of New Point." He has always had the keenest interest in the welfare of this community and in many substantial ways has contributed to its welfare and upbuilding. After sixty years of an honored and successful career, he has retired from active business affairs, but,

although nearly seventy-seven years of age, is still hale and hearty. One of the interesting and pleasing incidents in Mr. Stark's later life was the post card shower of which he was the recipient on November 13, 1910, the occasion being his seventy-second birthday anniversary. These cards, many hundreds in number, represented every state in the Union and were received from Odd Fellow lodges, war veterans, various publications and many eminent public men, including President Taft, ex-Vice-President Charles W. Fairbanks, Senator Albert J. Beveridge and other prominent men. One of the fine things in connection with Mr. Stark's life is the fact that he has never uttered an oath nor touched liquor or tobacco in any form. He is also a total abstainer from coffee and tea.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Randolph Stark enlisted as a private in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he served one hundred days and later, when General Morgan made his famous raids through southern Indiana, Mr. Stark again enlisted, assisting in repelling the invaders.

On March 13, 1864, Randolph Stark was married to Rosetta Showalter, who was born in Jackson county, Indiana, on August 3, 1844, the daughter of Isaac and Mary (Hollensbe) Showalter, natives of England. Mrs. Stark's parents eloped from England when Mary Showalter was only fourteen years of age. The Showalters later came to America, locating in Decatur county, about 1845. Late in Mr. and Mrs. Stark's lives there were born to them two children, a son and a daughter, the elder, the son, dying in infancy. The daughter, Cora, is a talented musician, having studied under the most competent instructors, both in Cincinnati and Indianapolis. For the past two years she has been conducting musicales and recitals in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Highly accomplished as a musical performer, and equally successful as a teacher, she is esteemed highly in musical circles of the cities where she is called.

Mr. Stark has always given his support to the Republican party and has been honored by his fellow citizens, having served as trustee of Salt Creek township for six years. His fraternal relations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, he belonging to the lodge of that order at New Point. He assisted in building the New Point Christian church and has been one of its most faithful and earnest supporters. He takes an active part in the affairs of this church and served the communion for forty years. Mr. Stark possesses a rare equanimity of temper and is noted for his kindness of heart, qualities which have won for him the sincere regard of all who know him. His nature is genial and cordial and his manner attractive.

His mind is rich and cultivated by a life of reading and observation. He has no personal enemies and provokes no one to enmity, for the simplicity and cordiality of his nature and manner invite friendship and forbid enmity. He is a hospitable man and cordially responds to all social claims, his home, one of the most commodious and attractive in New Point, being favorite stopping places for many friends.

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### SAMUEL CLARK.

When the pioneer emigrant, John Clark, came to Decatur county, Indiana, with his wife in 1823, and entered a quarter section of land in Marion township, he might not have been conscious of the fact that he was here establishing a homestead for his posterity which would remain in the family at least to the fourth generation. The present farm of Samuel Clark in Marion township, which comprises three hundred and ninety-two acres, includes the quarter section of land entered by John Clark, his grandfather, in 1824. Since the latter's time this farm has been owned successfully by the son, William Clark, and at present by the grandson, Samuel, the subject of this sketch.

Samuel Clark, who now lives in Greensburg, but supervises his farm, was born on September 16, 1859, the son of William and Rebecca (Cassel-dine) (Newman) Clark, the former of whom was born on September 22, 1807, and who died, April 1, 1893, and the latter of whom was born, June 10, 1817, and who died about three years before the passing of her husband, on November 14, 1890. Born at Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, Rebecca Cassel-dine was descended originally from North Carolina stock. Her husband, who was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, was the son of John Clark, a native of Maryland, born in 1768, and who died in 1860. He came from his home near Blackhorse Tavern, in Maryland, on horseback to Kentucky, and there was married to Mary Beckett, and in 1823 came on to Decatur county, entering a quarter-section tract in Marion township. The next year he returned to Kentucky and removed with his family permanently to this state. Each winter, however, he returned to Kentucky and cut cord wood. In his younger days he had been a fireman on a river steamer and with others had made several trips to New Orleans by flat-boat with various kinds of produce, walking all the way back home. He was a strong, sturdy character and one fitted to found a home in the Hoosier wilderness. He and his wife reared a

family of eleven children, Joseph, Robert, William, James, Richard, Thomas, Walker, John, Nancy, Eliza and Susan, all of whom are deceased, Richard having died in August, 1913.

When William Clark reached maturity he purchased the old home farm, and during his lifetime accumulated altogether about four hundred acres of land in one tract. He also owned eighty acres south of Greensburg, or in all four hundred and eighty acres. He was a strong Republican. To William and Rebecca (Casseldine) Clark were born three children: Eliza J., who lives with her brother, Samuel, the subject of this sketch; Nancy A., who died on April 7, 1894, and Samuel.

Until his removal to Greensburg, Indiana, Samuel Clark had always lived on the farm where he was born. In March, 1915, Mr. Clark removed to north Greensburg, but still raises hogs and many cattle on the farm, which is immune from cholera and all other hog diseases. There have been altogether six different houses on the farm, but one burned, and there are only two left, these having supplanted pioneer structures. The house in which Mr. Clark himself lived was built in 1865.

On January 3, 1895, Samuel Clark was married to Susanna Clemons, who was born on October 4, 1866, in Dearborn county, Indiana, is the daughter of Frederick and Louise (Krummel) Clemons, natives of Germany, who came to this country when young people and who were married in Dearborn county. After their marriage they removed to Ripley county, and settled near Napoleon, where they died. A great-grandfather of the Clark children on their maternal side fought with and was killed while fighting under General Washington at the memorable defeat of General Braddock during the French and Indian wars.

To Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Clark have been born four children, as follow: Helen, born on October 31, 1895; Bertha, 1900, died in 1902; Nesbit, December 21, 1904, and Chauncey Howard, April 2, 1907.

All the members of the Clark family, except Mr. Clark, are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Clark himself attends church. At the formation of the Progressive party in 1912 Mr. Clark identified himself with this party, and since then has been actively identified with the organization of the party. He is an enthusiastic admirer of Colonel Roosevelt and also of former Senator Beveridge.

Samuel Clark takes a great interest in the farm which has come down to him from his grandfather, and is anxious that the farm be kept in the family for several generations to come. He is devoting his life not only to the business of farming, but to rearing his children to honorable and useful



lives, for which he has every reason to expect that they will carry on the work so successfully carried forward by their father, grandfather and great-grandfather in this county. Here in old Decatur county the name of Clark is synonymous with industry, honesty, sobriety and intelligent citizenship, and Samuel Clark is a worthy exponent of these principles.

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CHARLES W. WORLAND.

Under the operation of the American system of politics there are few evidences of personal popularity more convincing in their expression than the returns given at the polls. When the election returns give to a candidate for a responsible and important county office the largest majority ever returned for any candidate of the party on whose ticket his name is represented in that county, this indisputable and very tangible evidence may be accepted as creating a very fair presumption of a most complimentary personal following on the part of that favored candidate. These thoughts are suggested by a review of the returns of the last election in Decatur county, in which County Commissioner C. W. Worland, of Clay township, was re-elected by the largest majority ever given a Democratic candidate for county commissioner in the history of this county. Not only that, but Mr. Worland has the further distinction of being the only Democratic county commissioner who was ever re-elected in Decatur county. His popularity in the vicinity of his home was amply demonstrated by the fact that, although his precinct is naturally heavily Republican, Mr. Worland carried the same by a majority of fifty-seven votes, an expression of confidence and esteem on the part of his neighbors that must have been exceedingly gratifying to the candidate. All agreed, however, that this expression was well deserved, for in the administration of the affairs of the county commissioner's office, Mr. Worland had displayed a degree of sagacity, sound business judgment and keen executive ability that very properly called for his retention in this important office, and there were many who announced, at the opening of his second campaign, that his re-election was a foregone conclusion, a forecast which the returns proved to be quite accurate. Commissioner Worland is one of the best-known men in Decatur county. He owns a fine farm of one hundred acres in Clay township, admirably tilled and prudently managed; the studious attention given to the management of his own affairs having been one of the strongest recommendations urged in behalf of his candidacy during the two campaigns he successfully conducted for the office which he now holds.



CHARLES W. WORLAND AND FAMILY.



Charles W. Worland was born in Shelby county, Indiana, on January 20, 1862, son of William Leo and Nancy Ellen (Barnes) Worland, the former of whom was born on September 6, 1834, and died in July, 1903, and the latter of whom was born on July 16, 1843, and died on October 17, 1890, Mr. Worland dying at Shelbyville, Indiana, and Mrs. Worland dying at Letts Corner, this county. William L. Worland was born in Kentucky, son of Leo W. Worland, of Scottish ancestry, who, in an early day moved from Kentucky to Indiana and spent the rest of his life in this state. Nancy Ellen Barnes was a daughter of Elijah and Polly (Gregory) Barnes, whose last days also were spent in this county.

William L. Worland came to Decatur county in 1880, locating in Sand Creek township, engaging in the saw-mill business at Letts Corners, where he became quite successful. Upon the death of his wife, he went to Shelbyville, this state, where his last years were spent in the home of his daughter, Mary Margaret, who still is living in Shelbyville. William L. and Nancy Ellen (Barnes) Worland were the parents of eleven children, namely: Mary Margaret, who lives at Shelbyville, Indiana; Charles W., the immediate subject of this sketch; Elijah, who lives at Williamstown, Rush county, Indiana; Albert, who lives at Shelbyville, Indiana; Lewis, who lives at Indianapolis; Mrs. Nora Simmonds, of Indianapolis; Henry, deceased; William, deceased; Lilly, who lives at Denver, Colorado; Francis, who lives at Shelbyville, Indiana, and Morris, who lives at Greensburg, this county.

C. W. Worland has been a resident of this county since 1880, in which year he came with his parents from Shelby county. Until he was twenty-six years of age he assisted his father in the mill business at Letts Corners, but after that time rented a farm in Sand Creek township, where he lived until in September, 1904, when he moved to Clay township and entered seriously upon the life of a farmer. Being progressive in his methods of farming and energetic in his operations, he prospered and ten years ago bought his present farm of one hundred acres near the village of Milford, then known as the Rothschild farm. This is a fine farm, gently rolling, and its soil is of that variety locally known as "sugar tree" or "black walnut" soil.

On October 29, 1884, Charles W. Worland was united in marriage to Emma Davis, of Westport, this county, daughter of John and Mary (Dare) Davis, natives of Union county, this state, who came to Decatur county about the year 1870 and became prominent residents of the Westport neighborhood. Mary Dare's parents were natives of New Jersey and emigrated to Indiana shortly after their marriage, settling in Union county, where they spent the rest of their lives.



To C. W. and Emma (Davis) Worland were born six children, as follow: Mrs. Eva Miers, of Adams township, this county; Clarence E., who remains on the home farm; Mrs. Mary Pumphrey, of Shelbyville, Indiana; Edward Leo, an express messenger on the "Big Four" Railroad, whose run is between Cleveland and Kansas City; Mrs. Alma Salter, of Marion, Indiana, and Raymond, who lives at home.

Mr. Worland is a member of the Christian church and is active in the good works of that church. He is a Democrat and ever since coming to Decatur county has taken a warm interest in the political affairs of the county, being deeply concerned in questions of good government. In November, 1914, he was re-elected county commissioner from his district, his services during his first term in that important office giving to the public ample evidence of his excellent qualifications for that important office. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Letts Corners and of the Masonic lodge at Milford, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these two popular orders. Mr. Worland is a jovial man who has many warm friends throughout the county, all of whom hold him in the highest esteem.

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### JOHN JOSEPH PUTTMANN.

The gentleman, whose name appears at the head of this biographical review, needs no introduction to the people of Decatur county, since his entire active life has been spent here; a life devoted not only to the promotion of his own interests, but also to the welfare of the community at large. An honorable representative of one of the most highly esteemed families of this section and a man of high character and worthy ambitions, he has filled no small place in the public view, and, although a partisan, with strong convictions and well-defined opinions on questions on which men and parties divide, he holds the esteem and confidence of the people of his community. He has been identified with many of the most important enterprises of this community and, in this way, has been largely instrumental in the prosperity of the locality with which he has been identified. A successful business man himself, he has, by his counsel and advice, been instrumental in assisting others along the highway of life and has rightfully earned the enviable position which he holds in the community.

John J. Puttmann was born on June 4, 1857, at Enochsburg, Franklin county, Indiana, the son of John Henry and Christina Charlotte (Storig)

Puttmann, natives of Germany. John H. Puttmann was born in 1784 and died in September, 1861, and his wife, Christina C., was born in 1815 and died on February 28, 1885. John H. Puttmann was a sailor and worked on the sea for many years, being the captain of a German vessel and, at one time, owned two ships of his own. He was an accomplished linguist, being able to speak seven languages. He finally abandoned a seafaring life and came to Cincinnati, where he operated a grocery, subsequently moving to a farm near Enochsburg. About 1858 he bought a farm in Salt Creek township, in Decatur county, where he spent the remainder of his days. His son, the subject of this sketch, now owns the homestead. Christina Puttmann had been married prior to her union with Mr. Puttmann, her name having been Klimper, to this first marriage two children having been born, Fred and Henry Klimper, both of whom are deceased. Of the children born to the union of John H. and Christina Puttmann, John J. is the only survivor, Eliza, Frances, Margaret, Louis and Josephine, all being dead.

John J. Puttmann attended the common schools of Salt Creek township and; at the age of fifteen years, in 1872, he became a telegraph operator at New Point and on January 9, 1874, entered the service of the Big Four railroad as agent and telegraph operator at North Bend. On May 1, 1874, he went to Lebanon, Boone county, Indiana, and on October 2, of the same year, he was again assigned to New Point, where he remained until his resignation, on May 1, 1888. He had faithfully discharged his official duties and was held in high esteem by his superior officers.

During all these years Mr. Puttmann had been keeping closely in touch with the public affairs of his locality and in 1882 was elected trustee of his township. So efficiently did he discharge the duties of this office that in 1884 he was again nominated by his party and re-elected. In 1890 the Democrats of his county nominated him for the position of county auditor and, being successful at the polls, he served four years in this responsible position. During President Cleveland's first administration, Mr. Puttmann served as postmaster at New Point, beginning on April 1, 1886. He has taken an active interest in political and other public affairs for many years and is numbered among the strong and influential men of his community.

John J. Puttmann has, from time to time, become interested in various enterprises in Decatur county and is now numbered among its most prominent business men. That his interests are diversified may be inferred from the following statements. A merchant at New Point, he deals in hardware, farming implements, grain, feed and building material and also operates, in connection with this business, a lumber yard and keeps a complete line of

drain tile. He also owns two saw-mills, one in New Point and another a short distance from that place, both of which are devoted to the manufacture of hardwood lumber. He engaged in the lumber and building material business until 1878 and in the hay, grain and feed business until 1879, and in 1892 established the hardware business. He was successful in all of these lines and was counted one of the most successful business men of his community, gaining the confidence and good will of all who had dealings with him. His grain business has been very extensive. He bought grain while in the employ of the railroad company and, since entering business on his own account, he has pushed this line of operation so that now he ships from three thousand to five thousand bushels of wheat annually. His elevator has a capacity of thirty-five hundred bushels. His investments in these lines are approximately as follow: In the lumber and building material business, two thousand dollars; grain, two thousand dollars, and hardware and implement business, four thousand dollars. In addition, he is also the owner of four hundred acres in Salt Creek township, which he devotes largely to live stock and general farming and in the operation of which he has met with well-deserved success. One of the largest enterprises in this community and with which Mr. Puttmann is very closely identified is the Big Four Stone Company, which employs from thirty-five to sixty men and whose annual pay roll is from twenty thousand to twenty-five thousand dollars. The output of this quarry is shipped to all parts of the United States and, since the quarry began operations, in April, 1882, the annual shipment has amounted to from three hundred to five hundred cars. The output consists largely of building stones, flagging and crushed stone. The capital investment of this enterprise is thirty thousand dollars and the company has one of the best quarry equipments in central Indiana, including a private railroad three miles long, rolling stock and a locomotive to facilitate the handling of the quarry output. Stone is now being produced from this quarry for a large building in West Virginia and for the colored Young Men's Christian Association building at Cincinnati. In the management of this enterprise, as in everything else in which he has engaged, Mr. Puttmann has shown business qualities of a high order and his progressive spirit and indefatigable industry have been duly appreciated by his business associates. Wisely conservative, yet aggressive when necessary in his business affairs, Mr. Puttmann is considered a man of keen judgment and sagacious insight into the possibilities of a proposition to which he addresses himself.

On June 19, 1878, John J. Puttmann was married to Hester E. Osborn, who was born on January 10, 1855, the daughter of Albert I. and Florence

Osborn, of New Point, this county. Mrs. Puttmann died on September 28, 1914. To this union were born five children: Rose E., the wife of Bernard Santen, of Columbus, Ohio, who has one son, Vernon; Clyde E. H., a farmer, who married Virginia Jones and has three sons, Joseph J., Charles and Walter; Elva Dora, who is the wife of Professor Bass, postmaster and principal of the schools at New Point; Leona L., at home, and Clara C., who married R. B. Bartow, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, who is connected with the American Steel and Wire Company.

Mr. Puttmann is a member of the Catholic church at Enochsburg and gives liberally to all charitable and benevolent offerings. He has lived and labored to worthy ends and is one of the sterling citizens and representative men of his community.

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#### BERNARD ORTMAN.

A native of this county, who has spent his whole life on the farm which he now owns, few men in his neighborhood take a larger degree of interest in the general welfare of that community than does Bernard Ortman, of Marion township, this county, a progressive and industrious farmer, who enjoys the esteem and confidence of his neighbors throughout that part of the county.

Bernard Ortman, a well-known farmer, of Marion township, this county, was born on October 27, 1867, on the old home place, a son of Barney and Mary (Losekamp) Ortman. He owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on which there is a modern house, which was erected in 1902. It is one of the best in Marion township. His parents both lived with him, and he cared for them in old age, and received as his share of the estate, the one hundred and sixty acres already mentioned, of which he plants twenty-five acres in wheat, and sixteen acres in corn each year. He is a stanch believer in the principles of the Democratic party and an earnest member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhousen.

Barney Ortman, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in 1834 and died on November 13, 1912. His wife, Mary Losekamp, was born in 1838, and died on March 1, 1914. Barney Ortman was born in Germany and came to this country in 1856, locating in Cincinnati, where he worked in a boiler factory until 1858, in which year he came to Decatur county and worked on a farm near Greensburg, later moving to Marion township, where he rented awhile, and then bought sixty acres, on which he lived for a time,



and then sold it, buying part of an eighty-acre farm, on which he prospered, gradually increasing his holdings until he owned three hundred and twenty acres. Altogether, he bought and owned three or four farms. He was a good trader and money-maker, and was shrewd enough to conclude that land investment was the best. He was rated as a wealthy man, whose advice was sought by neighbors and friends. During the time of the Civil War, he dealt in cattle and was known as a great trader. He spent much time on horseback—trading. He was a strong believer in the principles of the Democratic party and was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhousen. His wife was born four miles northeast of Millhousen, a daughter of Henry Losekamp, a very early German settler, and a man of wealth. Barney Ortman and wife were the parents of eight children, namely: Henry, Lizzie, Bernard, Katie, Mary, Josephine, Verlena and George. Henry died at the age of nine years; Lizzie is the wife of Adam Hessler, and lives at Muncie, Indiana; Katie is the wife of Ben Hoeing, and lives in Marion township; Mary is the wife of James McQuarry, and lives in Tampa, Florida; Josephine is the wife of Charles Hahn, and lives in Marion township, near St. Dennis; Verlena lives across the road from her father's home.

Bernard Ortman was married in 1902 to Miss Josie Funke, who was born in Marion township, this county, a daughter of Frank Funke, who was an old German settler, and to this union have been born the following children: Louise, aged twelve years; Carl, aged ten; Frank, aged eight; Ralph, aged six; Bertha, aged three, and Leona, born on October 30, 1914. Mr. Ortman is a member of the Progressive party and is enterprising and a hustler.

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#### HARLEY SHULTZ McKEE, M. D.

Dr. Harley Shultz McKee, township trustee of Salt Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, and a well-known practicing physician of Decatur county, located at New Point, was born on November 21, 1878, at St. Paul, this county, son of John B. and Mary (Lowe) McKee, both of whom were born in 1848. John B. McKee, a native of St. Paul, Decatur county, was a son of the Rev. Samuel McKee, a native of Pennsylvania. The former conducted a grocery for the stone workers and quarrymen for a number of years at St. Paul, New Point. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mary Lowe, was a native of Decatur county, the daughter of Mack Lowe, a native of Kentucky, who was a school teacher by profession. Rev. Sam-

uel McKee, the grandfather of Dr. Harley Shultz McKee, was a minister in the United Brethren church, and a farmer. During the days when ministers of the Gospel were accustomed to ride horseback to reach their various assignments, he was the minister at Gratis, and also preached at other churches in that vicinity.

To John B. and Mary (Lowe) McKee five children were born, in the order of their birth, as follow: Nellie, the wife of Doctor Kerchel, of Greensburg; Kathleen, the wife of Rev. S. G. Huntington, of Rushville, Indiana, a well-known Baptist minister of southern Indiana; Gertrude, the wife of W. F. Barber, a well-known teacher in the schools of St. Paul; Dr. Harley S., the subject of this sketch, and J. F., assistant superintendent of the Big Four freight depot at Shelbyville, Indiana.

Educated in the public schools at St. Paul, Indiana, Doctor McKee studied for his profession in the Indiana Medical College at Indianapolis, and was graduated from the Illinois Medical University at Chicago in 1907. After his graduation he began the practice of his profession at New Point, and has built up a large practice among the people of that community, who have profound confidence, not only in his ability as a physician, but who admire him for his pleasing personality and modest, unassuming disposition. He is a member of the Decatur County Medical Society and the Indiana State Medical Association.

On January 17, 1914, Doctor McKee was married to Jennie M. Starks, daughter of Edward F. and Mary Starks, the former of whom is a well-known jeweler at New Point.

That Dr. H. S. McKee enjoys the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens and the people of Salt Creek township is thoroughly proved by his election, in the fall of 1914 on the Progressive ticket, as trustee of this township. The people of the township admire Doctor McKee because he is a self-made man. They admire him because he was willing during the time he was struggling to obtain an education for the practice of medicine to teach several terms of school in this county. In this way he was able to pay his way through medical college.

Doctor and Mrs. McKee are members of the Christian church. Fraternally, the doctor is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at New Point, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the same city, the Knights of Pythias of St. Paul and the Royal Order of Moose at Greensburg. He is also a member of the Order of Eastern Star and of the Rathbone Sisters.

Doctor McKee is a highly deserving physician and citizen, and the large practice which he enjoys has been built up on the substantial foundation of merit alone.

## CURTIS MCCOY.

It is always a pleasure to write the history of a man who puts his abilities and capabilities to a use that not only gives pleasure to those of his own generation, but one who stands as a monument to his broad-minded nature, from which future generations may derive profitable lessons. Curtis McCoy, a well-known farmer of Washington township, this county, possesses an eye for the beautiful, and is a true lover of nature, as will be noted in the following pages. He has dug up some of the diamonds that, someone has truthfully said, are all around our feet. If more farmers would only beautify their homes, as Mr. McCoy has done, they would not only give a great deal of pleasure to themselves and their families, but they would double the selling value of their property.

Curtis McCoy was born in this county on May 2, 1863, a son of James Thornton and Martha Jane (Custer) McCoy. He attended school at McCoy's Station, and later went to DePauw University, attending in 1881 and 1882. He has always been a lover of farm life, and when he was married he and his wife moved on their farm of eighty acres in Wabash county, where they remained three years, at the end of which time they sold the farm and returned to Decatur county. After a short residence at McCoy's Station, they moved to Greensburg, where Mr. McCoy engaged in the clothing business, in which he was engaged until 1911, when he retired to the home farm at McCoy's Station, some time later selling the clothing store, since which time he has devoted all of his time and attention to general farming.

After years of planning and trying to arrange, Mr. McCoy and his wife have created a beautiful pleasure lake on the east side of their farm, one mile from McCoy's Station, and four miles from Greensburg, by pike road. The lake comprises forty-five or fifty acres, and the woodland section set aside covers one hundred and twenty acres. It is a beautiful tract of land and water, and Mr. McCoy has created a fine pleasure resort of this lake, which is already stocked with bass and channel-cat fish. He has boats and bathing houses for boating and bathing. The lake is over half a mile long and two miles around, with an average depth of twenty feet, and is the only resort of its kind in southern Indiana. The lake is fed by running springs at the head of Cobhsfork creek, the waters of which are very valuable on account of their medicinal qualities. The lake is in a picturesque setting, with beautiful scenery and a wooded shore. McCoy's Station was an important place in the county, in the early days, having been at one time the greatest grain shipping



MIL. AND MRS. CURTIS MCCOY.





point in Decatur county. It was an important trading point long before the war, and was also a noted "underground railroad" station.

Mr. McCoy is as successful in his farming as he was in business. McCoy's lake is his pride, and a realization of an ambition. Unaided, he expended funds in 1912 to build a large dam, and now has a body of clear, fresh water that has withstood drouths and floods, bidding fair to become a noted resort in the course of a few years. Mr. McCoy's farm now consists of two hundred and seventy-five acres, all in one tract. It is well improved, with fine farm houses, barns, etc., and has been in the family since it came into the possession of his grandfather in the year 1825.

James Thornton McCoy, father of Curtis McCoy, was born on May 22, 1824, in Bourbon county, Kentucky, and died on October 5, 1905, at Greensburg, Indiana. He was a son of Judge Angus C. McCoy, and came with his parents, in 1825, to Decatur county, at his father's death, buying the home farm. He was for years postmaster at McCoy's Station, and his barn was a station of the "underground railroad." James T. McCoy was married on November 15, 1849, to Martha Jane Custer, who was born on September 3, 1829, and died on July 15, 1893, and to this union were born the following children: Quincy Monroe, who died in infancy; Arabella, who married a Mr. Oder, and went to California; Sarah Elizabeth, deceased; Robert Arnold, who lives in Greensburg; Hattie Gertrude, deceased; William A., who lives near his brother, Curtis, and Glendora, deceased. Mr. McCoy was a Whig and then a Republican and later became a member of the Prohibition party. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their children were reared in that faith.

Angus McCoy, grandfather of Curtis McCoy, was born on March 13, 1789, in Washington county, Pennsylvania. His father, William McCoy, was born in Scotland in 1730, a son of Alexander McCoy, and came to America in 1772, settling on the west coast of Maryland, and later moved to Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania. Judge Angus McCoy died on October 12, 1865, in Decatur county. He was married, first, to Elizabeth Mary Smith, of Virginia, and his second wife was Elizabeth McPherson. McCoy's Station was erected on his farm. He was the first probate judge of Decatur county, serving from 1829 to 1843, and was a strong anti-slavery man. He and his wife were the parents of eighteen children.

Curtis McCoy was married on November 18, 1885, to Carrie A. Trimble, who was born on a farm four miles west of Greensburg, on January 12, 1864, a daughter of John B. and Mary Adelaide (Owens) Trimble, natives, respectively of Virginia and Indiana, both now deceased. John B. Trimble

was one of nature's noblemen. He was self-educated, a deeply-read student of the law and became one of Decatur county's most prominent citizens. He built the first fence around the court house at Greensburg. He was a strong supporter of the Republican party, and for years was one of the leaders of that party in Decatur county, and was well liked for his honest and straightforward dealings. His children were: Maria, who married William Morse, and lives in Indianapolis; Fred, deceased; Oscar, ex-county treasurer, who lives at Milford; Arthur, a farmer at Milford, and Carrie, who married Mr. McCoy.

To Curtis and Carrie A. (Trimble) McCoy two children have been born, Hazel, a graduate of DePauw University, now at home, and Trimble, who married Edna Hess, and is living on the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. McCoy are members of the Methodist church and their children have been reared in that faith, the family being looked upon as leaders in the good works of their neighborhood and held in the very highest regard by the entire community. Mr. McCoy is a Republican and a member of the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

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#### BENEDICT BRUNS.

To be satisfied with one's lot in this life, and make the most out of one's opportunities, places one on the list of those to be looked upon with a feeling amounting almost to envy. The most of us are so far-reaching in our desire for worldly gain, that we overlook many valuable opportunities. Mr. Bruns has been fortunate in recognizing that which was most suited to his desires and ability, and has been wise enough to let well enough alone. The life, termed by so many as the "humdrum" farmer's life, has proved to be an oasis to Mr. Bruns, after his years of activity in other lines.

Benedict Bruns, a well-known farmer of Marion township, this county, was born on July 24, 1860, in Ripley county, Indiana, a son of Herman and Christine (Waben) Bruns. Reared in Ripley county, Benedict Bruns went from there to Cincinnati, where he served as stationary engineer. He learned his trade when a boy of fourteen, and followed it for twenty years in Cincinnati, and from there he came to this county, locating in Marion township. Remaining there but a short time, he returned to Cincinnati, where he lived until November, 1900, at which time he returned to Marion township and bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located about one

and one-half miles west of Millhousen. The place has a brick house, which has been remodeled under Mr. Bruns' ownership, and a barn, forty by sixty feet, which has also been rebuilt. Mr. Bruns devotes a considerable portion of his time to the breeding of horses and cattle, and pure bred white Leghorn chickens. His political views are Democratic, and, in religion, he is a member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Millhousen.

Herman Bruns, father of Benedict, was born in 1823 and died in 1902, and his wife, Christine, was born in 1829 and died in 1902, about two weeks after the death of her husband. They were natives of Germany. Herman located in Cincinnati, when a young man, and went to work as a laborer. While in Cincinnati, he took unto himself a wife, and saved enough money to buy a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Ripley county, where he spent the remainder of his life. To this couple were born four children, Henry, Joseph, Benedict and Mary. Henry lives in Cincinnati, and has one child, Herman, who died at the age of three years; Joseph died in 1913, and Mary (Mrs. Koors), lives two miles south of her father's home.

Benedict Bruns was married in 1893, to Bernardine Rottman, daughter of Henry Rottman, of Decatur county, to which union nine children have been born, namely: Lawrence, who died at the age of nine months; Edward, who is a student at a veterinary college at Indianapolis, from which he will graduate in 1916; Alfred, also a student of the same college, who will graduate in 1917, and Joseph, Marie, Carl, Harry, Bernard and Louis.

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#### THOMAS M. HAMILTON.

The late Thomas M. Hamilton was born on June 17, 1830, and died on December 26, 1892. He was the son of Robert and Polly (Henry) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in 1796, and who died on August 11, 1855, and the latter of whom died on August 14, 1855, three days after the death of her husband. Robert Hamilton, a native of Carlisle, Kentucky, was married on April 15, 1819, and migrated in 1821 to Decatur county, Indiana, where he became one of the pioneer settlers. Here he reared a family of six children, namely: Isabelle J., who was born on February 7, 1820, married Warder W. Hamilton on September 26, 1843, and is now deceased; James D., February 14, 1822, died on July 3, 1824; Harriet N., February 17, 1824, married I. P. Monfort on September 26, 1843, and is now deceased; Lavina G., April 30, 1826, died on July 18, 1835; Almira L.,



May 24, 1828, died on September 13, 1853, the wife of W. W. Bonner, and Thomas M., the youngest of the family. Robert Hamilton was a very successful farmer in Washington township, and one of the founders of the Kingston Presbyterian church. He was known as a good man during his generation and did much to improve the country life of Decatur county.

After the marriage of the late Thomas M. Hamilton on November 7, 1854, to Elizabeth McLaughlin, he and his wife lived one mile north of the old homestead, and on the death of Robert Hamilton moved to the old homestead, and there were engaged in farming for about twelve years. At the end of this period they removed to Greensburg, and erected their home on North East street, where Mrs. Hamilton still lives. Thomas M. Hamilton looked after his agricultural interests while living in Greensburg, and was more or less active as vice-president of the Third National Bank of that city. He owned altogether four hundred and eighty acres of the old home farm, and Mrs. Hamilton also owned a large farm in her own name.

To Thomas M. and Elizabeth (McLaughlin) Hamilton were born three children: Luna R., who was born on September 25, 1855, died on January 16, 1875, at the age of nineteen; Mary C., February 11, 1858, died on July 14, 1875, at the age of seventeen, and Maud, May 31, 1863, died on February 15, 1892. Maud had married Samuel L. Baker on May 4, 1887, and by him had one child, Helen Hamilton, who was born on September 2, 1888. Helen married Leonard O. Lumbers, April 23, 1908, and they have two children, Leonard George, born on February 5, 1909, and Elizabeth Helen, June 15, 1911. They live in Toronto, Canada.

Mrs. Elizabeth (McLaughlin) Hamilton, who was born on November 25, 1834, on a farm in Clinton township, three miles from the place where her early married life was spent, is the daughter of George and Sarah (Carter) McLaughlin, natives of Kentucky, who came to Decatur county in 1827. Her father was born in 1802, and died in 1885. He was a son of George McLaughlin, a gentleman of Scotch-Irish descent, who lived near Maysville, Kentucky. Her mother, who was born in Kentucky in 1804 and who died in 1873, was the daughter of James and Anna D. Larue (Drake) Carter. The latter was the daughter of the Rev. Mr. Drake, one of the pioneer Baptist ministers of this section and a native of England. He married a French lady by the name of Larue. Mrs. Hamilton's father, George McLaughlin, was an extensive farmer and owned a large tract of land in this section. A Republican in politics, he was also a member of the Christian church, and one of the founders of the church of that denomination in Greensburg, he having affiliated with that communion after removing to

Greensburg in the latter part of his life. Among his children, three of whom died in infancy, may be mentioned the following: Mary Frances, who died at the age of twenty-five years, was the wife of Thompson Riley, a Decatur county farmer who died in 1854. James Carter McLaughlin, who was born in 1821, and who died in 1892, was a farmer and was married to Louisa Davidson who resides on Franklin street, Greensburg. He was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War. George, the next born, died at the age of sixteen years. Elizabeth A. married Mr. Hamilton. Caspar, a former merchant at Greensburg, removed to California and died there, after twenty years residence, in 1885. He also served as a Union soldier during the Civil War, and was a lieutenant in charge of a battery. Caspar McLaughlin married Helen Morrison, of Connersville, and they had four children, three sons and one daughter, namely: Mrs. Alice Williams, a widow who lives in Cincinnati with her mother; George deceased, who was an electrical engineer; Charles, a dentist in Cincinnati, and Ray, an attorney in Cincinnati, who married a Miss McElfresh.

Abram Carter, who was born in 1800, and who was an uncle of Mrs. Hamilton, was a talented physician and surgeon who settled in Decatur county on a farm and later removed to Greensburg, where he practiced medicine and surgery. During his life he was called to many points in the southeastern part of the state to practice his profession. He married Miss Harriet Norris, of Mason county, Kentucky, and when in middle life they removed to Iowa. He is now deceased, having died at the age of seventy-five years. He was well known by the early pioneer families of this section. His wife lived to be ninety years old. The family, consisted of two children, who were born in Kentucky, Adelia and Perlina. Adelia married a Doctor New of Greensburg. They lived in Greensburg for several years and then moved to Indianapolis. Doctor New was a surgeon in the Union army during the Civil War. He died in Indianapolis, leaving one child, Frank, now a resident of that city. Mrs. Perlina Tatham lived in Williamstown for some time, but later removed to Iowa, and died there, leaving two children, Florence and Cora, the latter of whom has become very prominent in the work of the Young Women's Christian Association in New York City. It may be mentioned here that Gen. James B. Foley, of honored memory in this county, was an uncle of Mrs. Hamilton by marriage.

The late Thomas M. Hamilton was an ardent Republican. A member of the Presbyterian church, he had much to do in the work of building up the church in this county. Mrs. Hamilton, however, is a member of the Christian church. She is a remarkably well preserved woman, intelligent, keen

and mentally alert, despite her age. She has traveled widely, having made several trips to Europe and makes one trip annually to Canada to visit her grandchildren. Mrs. Hamilton is now eighty years old.

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### HARRY LATHROP.

Among the best-known residents of Greensburg in Decatur county, and one of the most popular citizens of this section of the state is Harry Lathrop, the secretary of the Retail Merchants Association of Greensburg, Indiana, and whose father, James B. Lathrop, the president of the Citizens National Bank of Greensburg, is the oldest living resident of the city, the oldest living graduate of Indiana State University, and the oldest Methodist minister in the state of Indiana. The subject of this sketch, therefore, belongs to one of the oldest and most distinguished families of Decatur county. The history of the Lathrop family is given in the sketch of the venerable James B. Lathrop, to be found elsewhere in this volume. In this place it will suffice to say that the family is of English descent and dates back to Yorkshire, England, where the family was prominent in the fourteenth century. In America the family was founded by the Rev. John Lathrop, a Congregational preacher who, after imprisonment for his non-conformist views on religion, fled to America, and at Plymouth Rock rejoined a considerable number of his old congregation whom he had served as pastor in the mother country. He became a prominent man in the early history of Massachusetts, and his son, Erastus Lathrop, who was born in Connecticut, was a captain of a company of home guards which served during the battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812. Erastus, who was by occupation a farmer, became eventually a well known Baptist minister of his day and generation. Ezra Lathrop, the next member of the family in direct line of descent, and the father of the venerable James B. Lathrop, was born in 1803, in Canada, and was reared in the British dominion.

It was Ezra Lathrop, who settled in Decatur county, Indiana, on a farm which he entered from the government, about 1822. His wife, Abbie Potter, was a woman of equally patriotic stock, whose father, Nathaniel Potter, a gentleman of Huguenot descent, emigrated from North Carolina to Kentucky, and from Kentucky to Decatur county. Ezra and Abbie (Potter) Lathrop had only two children, who lived to maturity; Levi, who died in 1884, and James B., the father of Harry. Born on November 24, 1825, in

a one-story brick house, which his father had built, James B. Lathrop was a minister in the Methodist church from 1847, when he was twenty-two years old, continuously for thirty-one years. Today at the age of ninety years, he is one of the best-known citizens of southern Indiana, and has had, among the pioneers still living, a larger part in the history of this section, perhaps, than any other man.

Descended as he is from such eminent stock and such well-to-do ancestry, it is not surprising that Harry Lathrop achieved a large success in business. Educated in the public schools of Greensburg, and in the Greensburg high school, he spent two years in Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois, and after leaving college spent two years as a traveling salesman in the west, with headquarters at Newton, Kansas. During this period of his career there were developed those fine instincts and accurate notions of human nature, and the rules of business, which served him later when engaged in business for himself. Upon returning from Newton, Kansas, he engaged in the steam-laundry business at Greensburg, when laundries of this kind were in the infancy of their development. Here he conducted a laundry for twenty years and three months, all the time in the same building on West North street. Not only did he build up an enormous business, measured by the population of this city, but in that period he accumulated for himself a splendid fortune. In June, 1912, he sold out the business, and for the past year has served as secretary of the Retail Merchants Association. In this position his own personal experiences in business have served him well, since he acts as a kind of clearing house for the information of the members of this association. He is not only an expert judge of credit in Greensburg, but the force of his own personality has created a harmonious and agreeable working relationship between the several members of this association.

In 1894 Mr. Lathrop was married to Lillie Drusilla Browning, of Indianapolis, who at the time of her marriage was prominent in the social life of the capital city, and to this union one child has been born, Nelle Browning Lathrop, now a student in the Greensburg high school.

A Republican in politics, the subject of this sketch served as mayor of the city of Greensburg in 1890, and gave to the people of the city a most satisfactory and efficient administration. During the most of his life he has been prominent in the fraternal circles, not only of Greensburg and Decatur county, but of the state as well. As a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows he served on the building committee which erected the Greensburg hall. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Improved Order of Red Men, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and of the Fraternal



Order of Eagles. Mr. Lathrop also is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the Indianapolis consistory of the Scottish Rite and of Murat Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

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### DANIEL WESLEY HOLCOMB.

In the history of Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, no Republican had ever been elected trustee of the township until 1914, when Daniel Wesley Holcomb, a well-known and prosperous farmer of that township was successful as a candidate for that office. A grandson of a soldier in our second war for independence, he is known as a successful farmer and stockman, and no better evidence of his standing among his neighbors and fellow citizens can be cited than his election to the office of township trustee. On his paternal side it may be said that the family has been established in southern Indiana for considerably more than three-quarters of a century.

Daniel Wesley Holcomb, who was born on January 11, 1852, in Ripley county, Indiana, is a son of Eli Asa and Emeline (Hall) Holcomb, the former of whom was born on April 3, 1823, and died in 1898, and the latter of whom was born on March 24, 1826, and died in January, 1865. The former, who was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, was the son of Rufus and Nancy (Gloyd) Holcomb. Rufus Holcomb was a native of Connecticut and probably of English descent. With his family he emigrated to the West early in the nineteenth century, and built one of the first brick houses in Dearborn county, ten miles west of Aurora. There he lived and reared a family of eleven children and died. Before coming west he had served in the War of 1812. The eleven children born to Rufus and Nancy (Gloyd) Holcomb in the order of their birth were as follow: Ethel, Daniel, Luther, Turner, Eli, Rufus, Hulda, Nancy, Elizabeth, Lucinda and Lydia. Eli Holcomb, the fifth child born to his parents, and the father of Daniel Wesley, although reared in Dearborn county, lived for a short time in Ripley county, and returned to Dearborn county, and there reared most of his family. After removing to a farm near the Decatur-Jennings county line in 1866, the family disbanded, Eli going to Kansas, where he died at his son's home. Eli Holcomb's wife, who, before her marriage, was Emeline Hall, was born in Ohio, the daughter of Benaiah Hall, a native of New York, who settled in Ripley county, Indiana.

Eli and Emeline (Hall) Holcomb had eight children, four of whom

are deceased. Of these children, Edwin Perry was born on September 16, 1848, and died on July 3, 1850; Louis Philander, August 20, 1850, died, August 9, 1851; Daniel Wesley, January 11, 1852, was the third child; Georgia Evangeline, October 15, 1853, died, October 8, 1854; Emeline Celeste, March 14, 1855, married Reid Williams, and lives in Kansas; George Albert, January 25, 1852, also lived in Kansas; Eli Benson, February 3, 1859, lives in Arizona; Caroline Medora, March 6, 1860, married John Oldham, of Kansas, and both are now deceased.

After Daniel W. Holcomb's marriage in Marion township, he settled on a farm three miles north of his present farm, where he lived for ten years, selling out in 1883, and emigrating to Kansas. But after farming one season in Kansas, he returned and located on a farm three miles south of his first farm. Subsequently he purchased eighty acres of land and has since acquired altogether two hundred and thirty-five acres, two hundred and thirteen acres of which is in Marion township, and twenty-two acres of which is in Jennings county. Altogether Mr. Holcomb has twenty-five acres of timber. He raises live stock and grain, including forty acres of corn, forty acres of wheat, twelve to fifteen head of cattle, and fifty head of hogs every year. There can be no question that he has made a gratifying success of farming, and that his success is due to his enterprise, foresight, industry and good management.

In May, 1873, Daniel Wesley Holcomb was married to Mary E. Evans, who was born on September 25, 1855, in Decatur county, Indiana, the daughter of John and Nancy (Robbins) Evans, the former of whom was born in 1841 and died in 1911, and the latter of whom was born in 1844 and died in 1897. John Evans was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, the son of Joseph Evans, a native of Virginia, and an early settler of Indiana, who entered land here and who in the early thirties was numbered among the pioneer settlers of this community. Mrs. Nancy (Robbins) Evans was the daughter of Micajah Robbins, who was a relative of the Robbins family of Decatur county, Micajah being a brother of John Robbins, a prominent pioneer citizen of the county. Of the children born to John and Nancy (Robbins) Evans five are dead and five are living. Frank, the first born, Sarah Belle, the third born, Mrs. Augusta Hawkersmith, the fourth born, James, the eighth born, and Mrs. Rosa Dell Croucher, the seventh born, are deceased. The living children are Mrs. Mary Holcomb; Thomas, of Hamilton, Ohio; Joseph, of Bena, Kentucky; Jacob, of Sand Creek township, this county, and Ida, who married Ed. Sutton, of Marion township.

To D. W. and Mary E. (Evans) Holcomb seven children have been born. Of these children, John W., born on February 27, 1874, is the trustee of Sand Creek township, and lives at Westport; Albert Asa, November 22, 1875, also resides at Westport; Adaline, March 1, 1878, the wife of Henry Mozingo, died on December 20, 1914; Lewis Franklin, November 19, 1897, living in Oklahoma, married Mabel Becker, by whom he has had four sons and two daughters; Nancy Jane, November 7, 1881, the wife of Ed. Mozingo; Margaret Medora, May 25, 1884, the wife of Arch Brown, of North Vernon, has four children, and Joseph Benson, January 28, 1884, residing on his father's farm, married Viola Clements, by whom he has had four children.

A Republican in politics, as heretofore stated, Mr. Holcomb was elected trustee of Marion township in 1914. He was the first Republican to be elected to this office in the history of the township. Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb attend the Methodist Episcopal church, although Mr. Holcomb was reared as a Baptist. Judged from many standpoints, Daniel Wesley Holcomb is a valuable citizen of this great county and a man of wide influence in the township where he lives. He has always enjoyed the confidence of a host of friends, who admire him for his ability and respect him for his rugged integrity.

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#### DANIEL BUCKLEY.

For more than a quarter of a century one of the foremost leaders of the Democratic party in Decatur county and one of the most dependable organization Democrats in Marion township, Daniel Buckley has served several times as a delegate to state conventions of his party and is one of the most widely acquainted citizens of this county, especially among the state leaders of the party. Mr. Buckley's long service in behalf of Democracy has not gone wholly unrewarded, he having served as storekeeper in the revenue service, with headquarters at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, during the last Cleveland administration. For many years the Marion township committeeman for the Democracy of Decatur county, during late years his place has been taken by his son, who is equally capable as a political leader.

Daniel Buckley, who was born on February 14, 1849, in Cincinnati, Ohio, is the son of John and Mary (Glennon) Buckley, the former of whom was born in 1830 and who died in 1890, both being natives of Ireland. He came to America when a young man and, after his marriage in New York

city, followed the blacksmith trade in Cincinnati. In 1861 he moved from Cincinnati to the farm, where his son, Daniel, now lives, in Marion township, this county, and there built a house, which is still standing. With the able assistance of his son, he cleared the land and developed one of the best farms in the neighborhood. A Democrat in politics, he was also active in the affairs of the Napoleon Catholic church. Of his four children, John, the second born, is deceased. The living children are Daniel, the subject of this sketch; Edward, of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Kate Griffin, who lives south of Millhousen, in this county.

When the Buckley family moved from Cincinnati to Decatur county, Daniel Buckley was twelve years old and had begun his educational course in the Queen City schools, but he completed his education in Decatur county. Here he helped his father on the farm, clearing the land, cutting the timber and grubbing. Daniel Buckley and his son now own all of the old home farm, the son having purchased the interest of his father's brother and sister. The farm consists of one hundred and fifty acres of good level land, upon which a modern home was erected in 1910. Mr. Buckley and his son ordinarily raise seventy-five to eighty head of hogs and keep fifteen to twenty head of cattle on the farm. They specialize in Duroc-Jersey hogs. At the present time they are spending considerable money in various kinds of improvements, principally woven-wire fences.

In 1870 Daniel Buckley was married to Alvina Margaret Lamb, a native of Ohio, and the daughter of Michael Lamb, a native of Ireland. Mrs. Buckley was a good woman and a faithful and loving helpmate. Her death, on February 22, 1912, came as a distinct shock to her husband, with whom she had lived in comfort and happiness for forty-two years. At the time of her death, she was sixty-two years old. Her only son, Edward A., who was born on December 12, 1876, is a partner with his father in operating the home farm. No one will ever be able to take the place of this devoted wife and loving mother and today her memory is revered by the loving ones she left behind.

Edward A. Buckley is a well-known dealer in farm implements, hardware and buggies. He also is the local agent in his neighborhood for the Continental Fire Insurance Company and also handles lightning insurance. On June 13, 1915, while on a trip to the Pacific coast, Edward A. Buckley was united in marriage, at Fallow, Nevada, to Lillie Fey, of Millhousen, this county.

Daniel Buckley and his son, who are skillful and successful farmers and prominent citizens of Marion township, well merit the high opinion in



which they are held by their neighbors. If they are leaders in the political circles of their home township, it is because of their genial and cordial manners and their friendly and honorable relations with the people with whom they come into contact. In other words, the recognition accorded them is the reward of true merit.

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### EBER J. OLDHAM.

Seldom do we find, in searching out the biographical and genealogical annals of a family, one whose ancestors have served more valiantly in our country's wars than have those of Eber J. Oldham, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Marion township, this county, both of whose grandfathers were soldiers in the War of 1812, and who also enjoys the honorable distinction of having had six maternal uncles who served their country during the great Civil War. Moreover, Mr. Oldham's maternal grandfather married into the Judd family, which was prominent during Revolutionary days and which served its country valiantly in the first great war of this country.

Born on July 15, 1850, Eber J. Oldham was too young at the breaking out of the Civil War to enlist for service, but as an honorable and successful farmer, one who has performed his duty as a citizen of his county and state and country, he deserves to rank as a hero of peace. A native of Jackson township, Ripley county, Indiana, he is the son of Matthew and Salina (Hull) Oldham, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, the son of Absalom Oldham, a native of Maryland, who came to Indiana from Pennsylvania. Of English parentage, Absalom Oldham was a resident of Pennsylvania during the War of 1812 and enlisted from that state. Many years afterwards, in 1835, he brought his family to Jennings county, Indiana, and there died. Matthew Oldham, who was born on December 8, 1823, was married April 2, 1846, to Salina Hull, a native of Pennsylvania, born on August 2, 1824, the daughter of Charles and Prue (Judd) Hull, natives of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, and died on March 21, 1901. Charles Hull was also a soldier in the War of 1812, who settled in Ripley county, Indiana, after immigrating from Pennsylvania in 1836. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Prue Judd, had several relatives who served in the Revolutionary War. The late Matthew Oldham and wife, who came to Decatur county in 1865 and settled in Marion township, occupied a farm one and one-

half miles east and two miles south of the farm their son, Eber J., now owns. Eleven years after coming to Decatur county, they moved to the farm which Eber J. now owns and died on this farm. Mrs. Salina Oldham had six brothers who served in the Union army, William, Sylvester, Lemuel, Lorenzo, Daniel and Franklin. Daniel died in the service of his country at Georgetown, Missouri, and Franklin met death in the famous catastrophe of the "Sultana," a transport ship used during the Civil War, which was blown up in the Mississippi river.

Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Oldham, two, Mrs. Eliza Sweazy and Mrs. Jane Adams, are deceased, the latter dying in Ripley county. Charles A., of Marion township; Archibald, of Jennings county; Mrs. Sarah Wheeldon, of Marion township, and Eber J., the subject of this sketch, are still living.

Eber J. Oldham has enjoyed a most interesting career, having sought his fortune in many states. At the age of twenty-five, he took Horace Greeley's advice to the young men of this country and went west to Nebraska, where he homesteaded a quarter of a section of land and where he lived for four years. Subsequently, however, he abandoned the farm and in 1879 went to Colorado, where he was the manager of a lumber yard for four years. From Colorado he journeyed on to the state of Washington, where he lived for nine and one-half years and where he became a lumber inspector, connected with the largest lumber concern on the Pacific coast. Returning home in 1892, at the age of forty-two, he applied his savings to the mortgage on his father's and mother's farm and his father subsequently gave him a deed and bill-of-sale for the land. Four years later his father died, November 21, 1896, and nine years later his mother passed away, her death occurring on March 21, 1901. In the meantime, he had cared tenderly for his parents, living with them and doing his duty as becomes a son who is grateful for the affectionate and parental love and care during his childhood.

On November 16, 1892, Eber J. Oldham was married to Florence I. Love, who was born in Marion county, Indiana, on December 13, 1871, the daughter of Randall and Nancy (Gillibrand) Love, natives of Dearborn county and Marion township, Decatur county, respectively. To this union have been born four children, all of whom are living: Nellie, born on October 7, 1893; Francis Eber, November 23, 1897, who is a student in the Westport high school; Daniel Howard, October 11, 1902, who is a student in the eighth grade of the local public schools, and Herl, August 12, 1910.

All of the members of the Oldham family are identified with the Methodist Episcopal church at Zion, although they were originally Free Baptists

in religious faith. Mr. Oldham is a member of Westport Lodge No. 681, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has been an Odd Fellow for thirty-five years, or since 1880.

Eber J. Oldham enjoys the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and has made a host of friends in the neighborhood where he lives, because of his honorable and upright character, which his neighbors and friends admire; his clean and decent point of view in the human relations of life and his fair and square dealings with the public at large.

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#### BERNARD ANTHONY HOEING.

No more thrifty and enterprising emigrants have ever come to America than the thousands of German citizens, who have become citizens of this comparatively new land, but who have established homes in all sections of the country, and who have especially prospered in agriculture. Although comparatively few of the pioneer settlers of Decatur county were German citizens, yet the German families, who have come to this county from time to time, have succeeded here in a large measure, and today the second and third generations are equally prosperous. Bernard Anthony Hoeing, of Marion township, who represents the second generation of the Hoeing family in America, upon reaching maturity took up his father's occupation and has made of farming an even more conspicuous success than did his father before him. He owns a farm of a hundred and twenty acres in Marion township, which his father owned at the time of his death, and to this tract has added forty acres more—a well improved, fertile and highly productive farm, practically all of which is level land, and which yields abundantly every year.

Bernard Anthony Hoeing, who was born on December 12, 1870, in the log house built by his father, Bernard Joseph Hoeing, has spent his entire life upon this farm. His parents, Bernard Joseph and Christine (Schroer) Hoeing, the former of whom was born in 1824, and who died in June, 1902, and the latter of whom was born in 1834, and who died in December, 1890, were born, reared and married in Germany, and after coming to America, in 1868, settled in Marion township on forty acres which was partly cleared. The elder Mr. Hoeing finished clearing the land, and eventually owned altogether a hundred and twenty acres. He was a Democrat in politics and a devout member of St. Mary's church. The late Bernard Joseph and Chris-

tine (Schroer) Hoeing, had five children, one of whom, Mrs. Louise Funke, is deceased. The living children are Mrs. Mary Harpring, of near Millhousen; Mrs. Anna Dickhoff, of Jennings county; Mrs. Christine Harpring, of Marion township, and Bernard Anthony, the subject of this sketch.

After caring for his father, who survived his mother for twelve years, Bernard Anthony Hoeing purchased the home farm from his father just before the latter's death, and about 1896 added forty acres to this tract. The farm is completely fenced with woven wire fence and comprises a splendid country home with buildings erected by the senior Hoeing, remodeled by the son, painted a beautiful pale green, and located in the center of the tract. The present owner of this farm raises on an average thirty-five acres of wheat and from thirty to forty acres of corn. His land produces seventy-five bushels of corn to the acre by the use of fertilizer. The land is immune from hog cholera, and Mr. Hoeing has never lost any hogs as a consequence of this dreaded plague. On an average he sells from sixty to seventy-five head of hogs every year. He also raises his own horses, and specializes in the Percheron breed. In this connection it may be said that he is regarded as one of the foremost breeders of Marion township. Judged from many standpoints, from the neatness and attractiveness of the home and building, fences, fertility of soil and drainage and live stock, Bernard Anthony Hoeing is entitled to rank as one of the most successful farmers in this section of Decatur county. Much of his knowledge and skill he obtained from his worthy father, who was known as a careful farmer.

On September 5, 1894, Bernard Anthony Hoeing was married to Catherine Anna M. Ortman, the daughter of Barney Ortman, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Hoeing have had seven children. Of these children, Joseph Bernard, born March 17, 1897, is attending St. Mary's school; Leo Bernard, May 4, 1899, is a graduate of St. Mary's school, having finished the course in 1913; Lawrence Bernard, October 28, 1902; Erwin George, January 18, 1905; Clemens John, January 28, 1907; Marie Josephine, April 18, 1909, and Alma Mary, August 3, 1911.

Among other important conveniences on the Hoeing farm in Marion township is a gas well, drilled in 1914, which shows two hundred and fifty pounds pressure, which supplies his house, grounds and outbuildings with light and fuel.

Bernard Anthony Hoeing, like his father before him, is identified with the Democratic party, but he has never been active in politics, and has never held office. Mr. and Mrs. Hoeing and family are all members of St. Mary's



Catholic church, and he is a member of the Knights of St. John, of Millhousen.

Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the ease with which Bernard Hoeing has mastered the intricacies of modern agriculture, and the skill with which he has followed scientific principles, which not only has placed him in the foremost ranks of Decatur county's farmers, but has won for him as a citizen the respect and confidence of all people in Marion township, where he resides and where he is well known.

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#### VALENTINE HAHN.

Among the successful farmers of Marion township, who are comfortably situated on productive farms, is Valentine Hahn, who has a beautiful farm on a graveled thoroughfare, excellent farm buildings, including a beautiful white house surrounded by trees and a good barn. With twenty acres of timber on the land, the farm is well fenced and now has a gas well, drilled in January, 1915, with a three-hundred-pound pressure. Mr. Hahn is one of the frugal farmers of German descent who have done so much for the stability of our institutions and the improvement of agricultural life in this country.

Born on February 27, 1847, in Dearborn county, Indiana, Valentine Hahn is the son of Anthony and Mary Ann (Huff) Hahn, both natives of Germany, the former of whom was born in 1818 and died in 1903, and the latter born in 1819 and died in 1898. Anthony Hahn came to America when sixteen years of age and his wife came at the age of ten. His parents settled first in Pennsylvania, subsequently moving to Ohio and then to Dearborn county, Indiana. Finally, in 1861, they came to Decatur county. They owned a farm near Millhousen, where they were highly respected citizens and where they died. Of their nine children, three are now deceased: Mrs. Christina Huegal, Joseph and John. The living children are: Mrs. Mary Huegal, of Muncie; Valentine, the subject of this sketch; Anthony, who lives with Valentine; Mrs. Frances Eahardt, of Kokomo; Louis, who lives in Morris, Franklin county; and Mrs. Magdalena Hageman, of Muncie.

Valentine Hahn has been compelled for the most part to make his own way in the world. In April, 1865, he enlisted in Company H, Thirteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was in the service of his country for six months, serving in North Carolina and adjoining states. He per-

formed guard duty at Raleigh and Goldsboro and returned to Decatur county by the way of Baltimore, Maryland. On entering the service he had passed through New York city.

On September 20, 1870, Valentine Hahn was married to Susanna Herman, who died on June 27, 1887, seventeen years after their marriage, leaving nine children, one of whom is deceased, namely: Caroline, born on July 20, 1871, the wife of Herman Rolfes, of Fugit township, has four children, Raymond, Ruth, Thelma and Mildred; Ida, March 8, 1873, married Frank Notter, of Indianapolis, and has one child, Henrietta; Charles, November 20, 1875, of Marion township, married Josephine Ortman and has two children, Edna and Catherine; Henry, April 11, 1877, also of Marion township, married Minnie Langs and has two children, Marie and Frank; Dora, August 17, 1879, wife of William Link, of Millhousen, has four children, Walter, Ethel, Martha and Howard; Sarah, September, 1881, deceased; Mary, March 26, 1883, married William Bruns, of Ripley county, and has three children, Esther, Elma and Bernetta; Andrew, March 21, 1885, of Marion township, married Rose Hardeback and has four children, Hilbert, Maurice, Naomi and Susanna, and Albert, June 5, 1887, of Washington township, married Eva Tucker and has three children, Leon, David and Valentine.

Two years after the death of Mrs. Susanna Hahn, Mr. Hahn married, secondly, August 7, 1889, Elizabeth Herman, who was born on September 25, 1860, in Cincinnati, Ohio, the daughter of Joseph and Susanna (Young) Herman, natives of Germany, the former having been born in 1809 and died in 1884, and the latter born in 1823 and died in 1898, at the age of seventy-five years. Joseph Herman came to America with his parents when ten years old. He became a gardener and in 1861 settled in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, where he owned a farm. Finally, he moved to Marion township, where he died. To this second union five children have been born, all of whom are living: Wilfred, born on October 12, 1890, married Anna Gates and has one child, Wilfred, Jr.; Lawrence, January 16, 1894; Leonard, January 16, 1896; Carlotta, November 6, 1898, and Ernest, January 3, 1902.

Following Valentine Hahn's first marriage, he moved to a small farm in Jennings county, which he had purchased. Two years after his second marriage, he sold this farm and purchased another in Marion township. Mr. Hahn has prospered through life and is now in comfortable circumstances, being recognized as one of the well-to-do citizens of this community. He has educated all of his children and in every way possible helped

them to get a start in the world. All of them are enterprising citizens in the respective communities where they live and are doing exceedingly well as a consequence, not only of the material assistance given them by their father, but by the splendid example which he has set for them.

A Democrat in politics, Mr. Hahn has never been especially active in politics, but has devoted his time, energy and talents to his own personal business. The Hahn family are members of the St. Denis Catholic church.

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### ELMER E. WALKER.

No more highly improved farm can be found in Marion township, this county, than the eighty-acre farm of the late Elmer E. Walker, one of the most beautiful tracts in that part of the county, on account of the splendid trees growing near the home. There are two tracts of timber, comprising twelve acres in all, which protect the house and yard, the former being a white frame structure reached from the east and west road by a driveway. With these magnificent trees, fronting the modern farm building, and the beautiful, well-trimmed hedge along the road, the farm presents an especially pleasing appearance to the passerby. A gas well, which has a pressure of three hundred and twelve pounds, furnishes gas for lighting the buildings and grounds and heating. The farm is well drained and well fenced, a very tangible evidence of the thrift and enterprise of its late owner, providing a very comfortable home for his widow and her children.

Elmer E. Walker, the late owner of this magnificent farm, was born on February 12, 1866, in Salt Creek township, near New Point, in Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Milton B. and Martha J. (Colson) Walker, the former of whom was born in 1829 and died on November 30, 1913, and the latter of whom was born in 1843, and died on February 12, 1912. The late Milton B. Walker, a native of Carlisle county, Pennsylvania, having been born near Pittsburgh, came to Decatur county about 1850, and after his marriage settled on a farm in Salt Creek township, working for neighboring farmers until he earned enough money to send to Pennsylvania for his mother, Mary (Hall) Walker, who then came with two other children, Beth and Angeline. Her husband having died, she married, secondly, Benjamin Robertson, and lived in Salt Creek township until her death. Mrs. Martha J. (Colson) Walker, who was the daughter of Squire Colson, a native of England, and an old settler in this community, who kept a hotel

when the Big Four railroad was built and who owned part of the town site of New Point, was herself born near New Point.

Of the twelve children born to the late Milton B. and Martha J. (Colson) Walker, five died in childhood, seven were reared to maturity and five are still living. Of these children, the Rev. Joel Walker, a Methodist Episcopal minister, died in Montana in February, 1913. Elmer E., the subject of this sketch, died on May 21, 1915; Mrs. Ollie Tucker lives near New Point on the old home farm; Curtis is a section foreman for the Big Four railroad and lives at New Point; Elza, a farmer, lives one mile south of New Point; Roy lives one and one-half miles south of New Point, and Frank lives on the old home farm, three miles out of New Point.

Elmer E. Walker was not always engaged in farming. Upon leaving home, at the age of twenty-three years, he farmed for two years, and then was engaged in railroading for fourteen years, serving during that time as track foreman for the Big Four railroad. On April 17, 1903, he purchased the old home farm of his father-in-law, the Rev. David A. Tucker, in Marion township, and moved to that farm. During the twelve years he was there engaged in farming. Mr. Walker prospered with exceptionally satisfactory progress and deserved great credit for the care with which he developed his farm to its present high state of productivity.

On April 21, 1893, Elmer E. Walker was married to Fannie Tucker, who was born on December 12, 1868, in Ripley county, Indiana, the daughter of the Rev. David A. and Susan Tucker, the former of whom was for many years a Baptist minister, but who is now residing at Linnhaven, Florida. Mrs. Walker was brought by her parents to the old Tucker farm, where she now lives, when only an infant. Her mother died in 1888.

To Elmer E. and Fannie (Tucker) Walker were born seven children, three of whom are living: William McKinley, the eldest; Gladys M., the second born; Olive Opal, the fourth born, and Forrest Adrian, are deceased. The living children are Freda M., who was born on February 25, 1901; Frances Naomi, June 7, 1909, and Benton Bailey, April 16, 1913.

A stanch Republican in national politics, Mr. Walker was more or less independent in local matters, and did not hesitate to cross party lines to vote for some worthy man on the ticket of another party. Fraternally, he was a member of the Carthage, Indiana, lodge of Odd Fellows, having been the first member initiated into that lodge after its organization. For a time he was a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Walker is a member of the Methodist church, as was her husband, and the children are being reared in that faith.



As one who had worked hard for material success as a farmer, and one who was rearing a family of children to be useful citizens in the community where they will live, Mr. Walker deserved credit as a valuable citizen of this great county and township. He was popular in the community where he lived and where he had done so well his part in all the relations of life, and his death was widely mourned throughout that section of the county. Mrs. Walker is held in the warmest esteem in the community in which practically her whole life has been spent and the heartfelt sympathy of the entire neighborhood went out to her upon her bereavement.

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### JOHN G. GUTHRIE.

The venerable John G. Guthrie, a retired farmer of Greensburg, Indiana, is the oldest living citizen of Adams township and to him the publishers of this volume are indebted for much of the history of Adams township, herein contained. Hale, hearty and vigorous for his age, he has been an upright citizen and is a genuine patriarch of pioneer days, well-informed and intelligent. He owns a splendid farm of one hundred and ninety acres in Adams township and, during his declining years, is able to enjoy all of the comforts which this life may afford.

John G. Guthrie, former county treasurer of Decatur county, was born on September 8, 1835, on a farm near Adams, in Clay township, the son of Moses and Mahala (Stark) Guthrie, the former of whom was born on November 8, 1808, in Gallatin county, Kentucky, and the latter of whom was born in 1815 in Kentucky and died in 1906. Moses Guthrie was the son of Richard and Nancy (Keys) Guthrie, natives of Ireland, who immigrated to this country about 1800. With Richard Guthrie came his wife and three children, the other members of the family being born in this country. Altogether he had seven sons and three daughters: John, Moses, Thomas, George, James, William, Erwin, Mary, Margaret and Esther. Mary, John and Margaret were born in Ireland. Moses Guthrie brought his family to Decatur county in 1822 and settled in Adams township, where he preempted government land, west of Adams. After clearing the land of the timber, he grew a crop of corn. Before coming to Decatur county, he had lived for a few years in Jefferson county, Indiana. He became a naturalized citizen of this country and died on his farm in 1837.

After his marriage, Moses Guthrie settled in Clay township and lived

there all of his life. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mahala Stark, was the daughter of Philip and Elizabeth (Robbins) Stark, natives of Kentucky and members of an old colonial family, who moved from Shelby county, Kentucky, to Decatur county about 1822. Elizabeth Robbins was the daughter of William Robbins, a Revolutionary soldier, who served for several years in the Revolutionary army. He enlisted as a private in October, 1777, under Capt. James Clark and re-enlisted on September 22, 1778. He enlisted once more in 1781, being at that time a resident of North Carolina. The venerable John G. Guthrie remembers well his grandparents. His grandfather, Philip Stark, died in January, 1837, and his grandmother, Elizabeth Robbins, died about 1885.

To Moses and Mahala Guthrie were born ten children, all but two of whom are deceased. The two living children are John G., the subject of this sketch; and Mrs. Nancy Hamilton, the wife of John W. Hamilton, who resided in Pottawattamie county, Iowa. The names of the children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: John G., Philip S., who died while serving the cause of his country in the Civil War, a member of the Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry; James E., who died in 1911 at his home near Adams, in Decatur county; Elizabeth, who was the wife of Sanford Cline; Mary, who married Samuel Coleman; Epsie, who married Henry Kirbey, both now deceased; Nancy, who married John W. Hamilton; Esther, who was the wife of Sydney Sidener; Martha A., who was the wife of Ananias Pavey, and Alice, who is also deceased.

John G. Guthrie was educated in the country schools of Decatur county and took up farming at an early age. When thirty years of age he moved to Greensburg, having been appointed deputy county treasurer, in which capacity he served for three years. Since that time he has followed various lines of business, now owning a splendid farm of one hundred and ninety acres in Adams township.

On May 6, 1887, John G. Guthrie was married to Amanda Hazelrigg, who was born in 1845 and who died in May, 1912. She was a native of Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Hazelrigg, early settlers of the county, who came from Kentucky. To John G. and Amanda (Hazelrigg) Guthrie were born two children: Guy H., born in 1879, who is in the drug business in Greensburg, married Catherine Eich and has one child, Catherine, and Irwin Stanton, born in 1882, was a merchant of Greensburg, married Marie Russell.

Politically, Mr. Guthrie is a Republican. He has been a lifelong member of the Baptist church, his wife also having been a member of that church.

Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic lodge. There is no citizen in all of the length and breadth of Decatur county who occupies in the hearts of his fellowmen a warmer place than John G. Guthrie. He has lived a long and useful life and has behind him a career of which he may be justly proud.

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#### FRANK M. WEADON.

No history of Decatur county would be complete without fitting reference to the life and the labors of the late Frank M. Weadon, who for many years was one of the best-known and most popular residents of this county. From 1854, in which year Mr. Weadon came to this county from Virginia to serve as deputy postmaster in the postoffice at Greensburg, until the year 1882, in which year he moved to Indianapolis, where for many years he occupied a position of high trust and responsibility in the division headquarters of the Big Four Railroad Company, there was no man in Decatur county who had a wider following of friends, or who more highly esteemed. These friendships were retained after he left this county and there always was awaiting him here a warm welcome upon the occasion of his visits back to the old home; while in the considerable Decatur county colony at Indianapolis no others were more popular or more highly regarded than Mr. and Mrs. Weadon, who always took a prominent part in the annual reunions at the capital city of the Decatur county association of former residents of this county now living in Indianapolis. Mr. Weadon died on December 21, 1914, and his death was sincerely mourned, not only among his associates and friends of many years at Indianapolis, but quite as sincerely among his earlier friends in this county. His widow, Mrs. Mary Jane Weadon, who was born at Greensburg, this county, in the year 1838, still is living at Indianapolis, her pleasant home at 906 Woodlawn avenue often being the scene of quiet gatherings on the part of her friends, who delight to do honor to her dignified old age.

Frank M. Weadon was born in London county, Virginia, on July 7, 1835, and received an excellent education in his home state. In 1854 he came to this county, entering the postoffice at Greensburg as deputy postmaster under Postmaster J. V. Bemustaffer. In this capacity he quickly made friends in his new home and was regarded as one of the "coming" young men of the community. President Lincoln later appointed him revenue collector for this revenue district, and he served most acceptably in that

capacity until 1871, in which year he was elected county auditor of Decatur county, a position of trust which he filled with the utmost fidelity to the public. This service continued for four years, at the end of which time his services were engaged by the Big Four Railroad Company, and in 1882 the scene of his activities was transferred to Indianapolis, in which city he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on December 21, 1914. In his thirty years of service in the division headquarters of the Big Four Railroad Company at Indianapolis, Mr. Weadon was absent from the office but four weeks. He remained with the company until he was retired on pension on account of the encroachments of age. He was singularly faithful and devoted in his service to the company and was held in the very highest esteem by all his office associates and the authorities of the road.

On October 8, 1856, Frank M. Weadon was united in marriage to Mary Jane Jamison, who was born in Greensburg, this county, on April 24, 1838, the daughter of Francis and Nancy (Preston) Jamison, both members of pioneer families of this county. Francis Jamison was the son of Martin and Barbara (Seebaugh) Jamison, the former of whom was born in Glasgow, Scotland, coming to this country in early manhood and locating at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he married Barbara Seebaugh, a member of one of the old Colonial families, later coming to Decatur county and entering business in the then rapidly growing village of Greensburg. Martin Jamison had been trained to the hatter's trade in Scotland and he engaged in the hatter's business at Greensburg, to which he added a general stock of dry goods, becoming one of the leading business men in southern Indiana. He built the first two-story building in Greensburg, his place of business having been located on the site now occupied by Minear's dry-goods store, and was a power in the early development of the commercial and industrial interests of this county, his influence in the religious and civic life of the community having been equally potent, so much so that few names in the early history of Decatur county are entitled to more respectful recognition than that of Martin Jamison.

Francis Jamison was born at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and as a child came to this county with his parents, being reared at Greensburg, and upon reaching manhood was associated with his father in the dry-goods business at Greensburg, being for many years one of the leading merchants in that city. He married Nancy Preston, who was born in Georgetown, Kentucky, and who came to Decatur county with her parents at the age of sixteen years, her father, Thomas Preston, becoming one of the best-known pioneer farmers of this county. Thomas Preston entered a government tract, at



what is now known as the Doss Pleak farm, and became a substantial and honored resident of that part of the county.

To Frank M. and Mary Jane (Jamison) Weadon were born the following children: Percy, who is prominently connected with the theatrical business in New York City; George A., a prominent business man in Indianapolis, in the millinery line, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Burt C. and Bruce.

The Weadons are held in high esteem throughout Decatur county, though long having been absent the connection of the two names, Jamison and Weadon, formerly so strongly identified with the commercial and political life of the county seat, giving to the family a substantial position in this county which time cannot effect.

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#### OSCAR B. TRIMBLE.

Among the men of sterling worth and strong character in Decatur county, who have left the mark of their influence on the institutional life of this section, none has been honored with a larger measure of popular respect than Oscar B. Trimble, a prominent farmer of Clay township, former trustee of that township and twice elected treasurer of Decatur county. Mr. and Mrs. Trimble have a splendid farm of one hundred and seventy acres, three-quarters of a mile south of Milford, on the old Vernon road, where they have lived for many years in comfort and happiness, sweethearts quite as much as they were in the days of their courtship.

Oscar B. Trimble was born in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, in 1859, the son of John B. and Adelaide (Owens) Trimble, the former of whom was born in 1818 in Grayson county, Virginia. The Owens family, originally from Pennsylvania, came to Decatur county in pioneer times, first settling in Jackson township, where their descendants are still numerous. Risdan Owens, the founder of the present branch of the family in this section, emigrated, when past the prime of life, to Kansas and there entered land and became wealthy. He died in that state, after having spent a life of unusual vigor. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom Adelaide, the mother of Mrs. Trimble, was one of the daughters.

The Trimble family is of Scotch-Irish descent and came to Decatur county in 1836 from Virginia, settling in Washington township, near Greensburg. John B. Trimble was a carpenter in his younger days, and there are



MR. AND MRS. OSCAR B. TRIMBLE.



several houses still standing and in good condition which he built in Decatur county. The house on what is known as the old Tarkington farm, where the ancestors of Booth Tarkington lived, now owned by Bird Sefton, was built by Mr. Trimble and stands today as a monument to his skill and honesty as a builder. Later he abandoned carpentering and became a farmer. He was married in 1855 to Adelaide Owens and after their marriage, they purchased a farm in Washington township, now known as the Applegate farm. After selling this farm, John B. Trimble moved to Kansas, where he remained one year, and then came back to Decatur county, purchasing land in Clay township, now owned by his sons, O. B. and A. B. Trimble.

Although reared a Democrat, the late John B. Trimble, soon after coming to Decatur county, became a member of the Whig party and, upon the organization of the Republican party, in 1856, became a member of that party. He was always true to the party of Lincoln and was intensely patriotic, ever displaying the utmost loyalty to the principles of the Union during the time of the Civil War. John B. Trimble was elected several times as trustee of Clay township and made a fine record in that office. A noble citizen and an influential man, he had a wide acquaintance and was popular with his neighbors, especially on account of his brilliant conversational abilities. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Christian church. He died on August 24, 1907. His widow, who died less than two months later, on October 12, 1907, was a woman of kindly, Christian character and was much loved and respected in Clay township.

To the late John B. and Adelaide (Owens) Trimble the following children were born: Mrs. Maria Morse, wife of William Morse, of Indianapolis; O. B., the subject of this sketch; Arthur B., a farmer of Milford, this county; Mrs. Carrie McCoy, wife of Curtis McCoy, of this county, and Fred B., a well-known Decatur county farmer, who died in 1900, at the age of forty-two.

In 1879 O. B. Trimble was married to Ida M. Butler, who was born in Bartholomew county, this state, in 1860, daughter of John F. and Susan (Woodard) Butler, who later were well-known residents of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Trimble began life on the farm where they now live and there they have lived a life noted for its peacefulness and happiness. To them two children have been born, Claudia A., wife of Dr. Charles A. Kuhn, of Greensburg, and Ethel B., wife of Christian Steen, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. and Mrs. Kuhn have two children, Dorothy and Hilda.

Always intensely loyal to the principles of the Republican party, O. B.



Trimble has been prominent in the affairs of his party for many years and is regarded as one of the influential men in the party's councils in Decatur county. In 1894 he was elected trustee of Clay township and served for five years. In 1906 he was elected treasurer of Decatur county and was re-elected in 1908. Both as trustee of Clay township and treasurer of Decatur county, Mr. Trimble was one public official who worked at the job; who kept the business of the county and the township absolutely straight and who devoted his time exclusively to looking after the public business. He is a man of whom the people of this county have reason to be proud. Mrs. Trimble is a member of the Christian church and takes a warm interest in the affairs of the same. Mr. Trimble is a Mason, being a member of the lodge of that order at Milford. He also is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Milford, the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney and the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Greensburg, being very popular among the members of these several fraternities. He and his wife are active in all good works in their neighborhood and are held in the highest esteem thereabout.

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#### DILVER E. DOUGLAS, M. D.

Among the prominent physicians and surgeons of Greensburg, Indiana, who also have been prominent in the political and civic life of the county, is Dr. Dilver E. Douglas, whose grandfather came down the Ohio river from Pennsylvania and settled early in the history of the state near Vevay, Indiana. The career of this successful physician, the subject of this sketch, is a striking example of boyish ideals and ambitions which have been fully realized in later life.

Dilver E. Douglas was born on a farm near Vevay, Indiana, on November 9, 1870, son of John and Esther (Pocock) Douglas, natives of Indiana, the former of whom was born in 1840 and died in 1892 and the latter born in 1842 and died in 1894. John Douglas was the son of Jackson Douglas, a native of Pennsylvania, who, as heretofore stated, came down the Ohio river from Pennsylvania and, after numerous experiences and exploits, settled near Vevay.

Educated in the district schools and in the Vevay high school, Dilver E. Douglas was also a student for some time at the local normal school and taught school for seven years in Switzerland county. Beginning the study of medicine in his boyhood, in the office of Dr. R. D. Simpson, he entered the

Ohio Medical University in 1892, later entering the Kentucky School of Medicine at Louisville, from which he was graduated with the class of 1897.

From 1897 to 1912 Dr. Dilver E. Douglas was engaged in the practice of medicine at East Enterprise, near Vevay, but in 1912 came to Decatur county and has since that time been successfully engaged in the practice of medicine in Greensburg. Doctor Douglas is a member of the Decatur County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Association and the American Medical Association, in all of which organizations he takes a prominent part.

On June 10, 1896, Dr. D. E. Douglas was married to Lillian Adams, of Vevay. To this union two children, Robert E. and F. Mareta, have been born.

A member of the sixty-sixth General Assembly of Indiana, Doctor Douglas served as a member of the committee on ways and means, the committee on state medicine and the committee on benevolent institutions. He was a prominent and influential member of that session, having been elected as a Democrat and serving as a member of a body which was Democratic for the first time in several years. During this session, however, the upper house of the General Assembly remained Republican.

Doctor Douglas is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. A Democrat in politics, in addition to his service as a member of the Indiana General Assembly, he also served as county surveyor of Switzerland county for one term before moving from East Enterprise to Greensburg.

Although a resident of this county a comparatively brief period, Doctor Douglas has already established a flourishing practice. During his short residence here, he has gained a host of friends and is honored and esteemed, not only by his patients, but by all the people of Greensburg, Decatur county.

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#### MATHIAS JOHANNIGMANN.

If one should visit Decatur county in search for a model farm, from the standpoint of improvements, buildings and natural advantages, and one that was cultivated and farmed by the most modern methods, he would more than likely be directed to Marion township in search of Mathias Johannigmann.

Mathias Johannigmann was born on August 16, 1856, in a log cabin on the farm on which he now lives, the son of Bernard Dominicus Johannig-

mann, who was born in Germany in 1821, and who died in Decatur county in 1896. After emigrating to America in 1850 Dominicus Johannigmann lived for a time in Cincinnati and then came to Decatur county and bought a tract of land in Marion township that had been partly cleared by the Indians, the aboriginals having had a village at that point. The remainder of this land was cleared by Dominicus Johannigmann and in 1876 he made the bricks and built the fine brick residence in which his son, Mathias Johannigmann, now lives.

The wife of Bernard Dominicus Johannigmann was Elizabeth Egbert, who was born in Germany in 1832 and died in Decatur county in 1866. They had the following children: Mary, who lives in Cincinnati; John, who is deceased; Mathias, the subject of this sketch; Henry, who lives at Walnut Hills, Cincinnati; Joseph, who lives at Price Hill, Cincinnati, and Anna (Theimann) St. Bernard, of Cincinnati.

Mathias Johannigmann is now in possession of a tract of two hundred and forty-six acres of well-improved land, which has a running stream of water passing through it. Mr. Johannigmann has one of the finest barns in Decatur county. This barn was built in 1909 and is sixty-four by forty-eight feet and three stories high. It is made out of hard-wood lumber that was cut from trees taken on this farm. The construction of the barn is such that any of the three stories will support a wagon and team. The barn is well supplied with granaries and has running water for the stock. It is unquestionably the finest barn in Decatur county. The Johannigmann farm presents a most picturesque sight with its hills and valleys and fine old buildings set in surroundings of huge old maple trees. The fine brick residence was built by Mathias Johannigmann's father in 1877, and is in an excellent state of repair. Mathias Johannigmann has always lived on this farm, with the exception of six years spent in Cincinnati, as a teamster, when a young man. He is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and has a fine herd of fifteen head of this breed. He has five head of fine mules and five head of pure-bred Percheron horses, and on both horses and mules he has won premiums at Batesville, North Vernon, Osgood and Greensburg fairs and stock shows. He also raises annually from twenty-five to forty head of fine Duroc-Jersey hogs.

Mathias Johannigmann was married on February 19, 1884, to Anna Kuhlman, who was born in Madisonville, Ohio, in 1859, the daughter of John Kuhlman, a native of Germany, who came to Indiana from Ohio. To Mathias and Anna (Coleman) Johannigmann have been born six children, of whom three are living: Clara, born in 1888, now resides in Cincinnati;

Mathias, June 8, 1893, is now farming at home, and Helen, October 25, 1894.

Mathias Johannigmann is a Democrat. He is a member of St. Mary's Catholic church and is a good example of the sturdy German blood which has done so much to enrich America, he and his family being held in the highest esteem throughout a part of the county in which for years he has taken so prominent a part in agricultural development.

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EDWIN S. FEE.

Our republic, consciously or unconsciously, was founded on the idea that man's economic objects are to be obtained by the exploitation of one class by another class—by the appropriation of others' labor rather than by one's own labor, by political rather than by economic need. It is another instance of the institution of government designed to preserve in our civilization the principle that the fittest shall survive. The aristocratic character of our legislative bodies, particularly the federal court, and, until quite recently, the United States Senate, are glaring instances of the fact that at every crucial point the few have been foresighted enough to protect their traditional rights, to exploit all not within the pale of their own social class.

When we find in our examination of the personal and biographical annals of the past generation, one who has devoted his life's energies to opposing the aggressions of the few, who lived and died for the cause which he knew was right, who withstood the trials and discouragements, the opposition and the isolation of friends and even relatives, yet remained steadfast in the cause and uplift of a downtrodden race of humanity, we are compelled to render a tribute to the memory of the man who put personal and selfish interests aside and cast his fortunes with those who were being preyed upon.

In the agitation against the institution of slavery which preceded the Civil War, no man gave greater power or more intelligent direction to the crusade than the late Rev. John G. Fee, founder of Berea College, at Berea, Kentucky. A school which today ranks with our foremost colleges and universities, with an enrollment of more than two thousand students, it is a living monument to the memory of Reverend Fee, who was the father of Edwin Sumner Fee, a well-known farmer and stockman of Decatur county and the subject of this writing.



Edwin S. Fee, born on March 17, 1863, in Clermont county, Ohio, is today the only surviving member of a family of six children, reared under the best impulses of Christian citizenship, and under the protecting love of a noble and capable Christian mother, who added her best energies, her best thought and action to the success of her husband and the cares of her household. Mr. Fee has complete data on the genealogy of his ancestors as far back as 1630, which is greatly prized by himself and will increase in value in coming generations. Mr. Fee's infancy was contemporaneous with the stirring period of the Civil War. He, like all his brothers and sisters, was educated in the schools of Berea, Kentucky, and in Berea College.

On September 11, 1883, Edwin S. Fee was married to Enrie J. Hamilton, of Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, a daughter of the late William McCoy and Euphemie (Donnell) Hamilton, both members of old and prominent families in the county, the former of whom was born on November 26, 1822, and died on February 25, 1905, and the latter of whom was born on October 5, 1829, and died on December 6, 1892. Mrs. Fee's father was a citizen of Decatur county and lived his entire life within its borders, a son of Cyrus and Mary (McCoy) Hamilton, natives of Kentucky. William McCoy Hamilton was born and reared on the paternal farm in the Kingston neighborhood in Decatur county. On January 24, 1854, he was married to Euphemie Donnell, the only daughter of Luther and Jane (Braden) Donnell. Immediately after their marriage they moved to the farm on which their only son, Luther Donnell Hamilton, now lives. At that time there was an old pioneer dwelling on this farm, which, ten years later, was supplanted by a fine, large brick residence, which Mr. Hamilton erected and which, with some remodeling to suit modern conditions, still does fine service as a country home.

Mrs. Hamilton inherited about six hundred acres of land from her father, and gradually this was increased by Mr. Hamilton until he became the possessor of more than three thousand acres of land. He bred and raised a great number of mules, cattle and hogs for the market. He was one of the most substantial citizens in this county, an earnest Republican and took an active part in political affairs. He was a fiery abolitionist and served in the capacity of county commissioner for two terms. He was prominently connected with the affairs of the "underground railroad," by which agency many slaves found their way to freedom before the war. He was president of the First National Bank of Greensburg. Both Mr. Hamilton and his wife took active interest in all church work and charitable institutions. Mrs. Hamilton's main work was in her household and aiding poor

and unfortunate people who came within the reach of her kindly care and Christian influence.

To William McCoy and Euphemie (Donnell) Hamilton were born five children: Enrie Jane, born on November 8, 1854, the wife of Mr. Fee; Grace Greenwood, November 20, 1858, died on January 16, 1898; Luther Donnell, at present one of the largest farmers in the county; Myrta Gay, February 18, 1865, married John M. Berry on December 26, 1893, and died at her Chicago home on March 19, 1897, and Mary Blanche, May 9, 1868, married George W. Lyons in December, 1900, and is now living in Greensburg.

Mrs. Edwin S. Fee, the eldest of the family, was educated at Oberlin College, and took special courses in the conservatory of music and was affiliated with the class of 1875. For two years she taught music in Berea College, and was teaching at the time she met Mr. Fee. After their marriage they began farming in this county. Today Mr. and Mrs. Fee own over nine hundred acres of land in three farms. They have a beautiful modern home in the town of Clarksburg, perhaps the finest residence in the county. Completed in the fall of 1906, it contains twenty-one rooms and is finished throughout with native hardwood and with hardwood floors. It is hot-water heated and is lighted with natural gas. The rooms are all artistically decorated and a large open fireplace in the spacious living room is a most attractive and comfortable feature of this magnificent country home. It is painted cream and white and has French plate-glass windows and a large circular porch, which extends almost around the entire house, with the portecochere on the south side.

On this body of land there are four sets of farm buildings. Mr. Fee is an extensive cattle, mule and hog raiser, and a large feeder of Shorthorn cattle. He averages not less than one hundred and fifty head of cattle and twenty-five mules and two hundred head of hogs for market per year. Four men are employed by the year to aid in the work on these farms, their families living on these farms.

To Edwin S. and Enrie J. (Hamilton) Fee five children have been born, two sons and three daughters, all of whom after attending the high school at Clarksburg enjoyed the advantages of higher education. Burritt Hamilton, born on June 26, 1884, was educated at Berea College and is now a farmer and stockman; William Howard, July 4, 1886, attended Berea, Tarkio (Missouri) and Valparaiso (Indiana) College, and is farming near Kingston. Both sons own one hundred and sixty acres of land apiece, besides other interests. Mary E., February 24, 1889, is pursuing special

courses of music in Berea College, DePauw University and Oberlin and Cincinnati conservatories. Nellie M., August 4, 1891, attended Monmouth College, Illinois, for three successive years in the liberal arts course, at the same time taking a course in vocal music at the conservatory. Bessie E., July 16, 1894, attended college a year each at Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, Monmouth College and Bradley Polytechnic, at Peoria, specializing in music, domestic science and painting.

The family are members and regular attendants of the Clarksburg Presbyterian church, Mrs. Fee having been organist and leader of the choir for more than forty years, and is today still doing excellent service in that capacity. All the family live at the home in Clarksburg.

Edwin S. Fee is a progressive Republican, but is independent in his voting and thinking. He has proved a valuable citizen in this great county, and is a director and largest individual stockholder in the Clarksburg State Bank, and is a trustee of Lincoln Institute at Louisville, Kentucky, and prominent on temperance boards and affairs of community interest and betterment. Both Mr. Fee and his two sons are valuable factors in the community as farmers and men of judgment, prominent in corn and stock shows and farmers' institutes.

There is an old saying that blood will tell, and if we believe in this statement we must say that Mr. and Mrs. Fee, by their every thought, word and act, are fulfilling the noble desires and traditions of two families which have figured prominently in the public and religious life of two continents.

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#### J. MINOR GASTON.

Indianapolis, the state capital, has gained many very excellent citizens at the expense of Decatur county, the Decatur colony at the capital being one of the most strongly marked and individualized of any of the state's numerous county colonies there. The attractive force of Indiana's chief city and political center has drawn from all ranks of Decatur county's social order, and most all the industries and professions in the capital are represented among those who have left the borders of this county, seeking wider opportunity there for the exercise of their talents. Among those who thus have departed, few have left pleasanter memories among their friends who remain here than the family of the Gastons, who, in the spring of 1912, moved to Indianapolis, where Mr. Gaston has found an ample outlet for

his enterprise and energy in the banking business, a business which he proved himself so well qualified for during his residence in the village of Westport, this county. Though he no longer is a resident of Decatur county, J. Minor Gaston still retains considerable property interest in and about his former home at Westport and still likes to regard himself as one of the Decatur county folk. It is quite fitting therefore that some record of his life in this county, together with a brief history of his interesting family, should be set out in this volume of biographical reference to the men and the women who have helped to make Decatur county what it is—one of the most favored sections of the proud old Hoosier state.

J. Minor Gaston was born at Sardinia, Decatur county, Indiana, on September 19, 1856, of excellent pioneer stock, the son of Francis M. and Margaret (Gray) Gaston, both natives of Butler county, Ohio, who came to this county in the year 1849, locating in Jackson township, in the village that at that time was known by the name of Maxwell, where Francis M. Gaston engaged in the general merchandise business. Upon opening his store in the village, Mr. Gaston gave a great sardine supper, free to all who would attend, as a means of advertising, in a day when newspaper advertising was not so much a factor in commercial enterprises as it is today. Needless to say, the sardine supper was attended by the entire countryside and the fame of the unique "spread" became enduring. About that time Maxwell attained the dignity of being made a postoffice, and, on account of there being another Maxwell postoffice in the state, it became necessary for the villagers to select another name for their town. In compliment to Mr. Gaston, and to perpetuate the fame of his sardine supper, the people unanimously agreed that the town should be called "Sardinia," and the post-office department so ordered. And Sardinia it is to this day.

Francis M. Gaston was reared on a farm in Butler county, Ohio, not far from the city of Cincinnati, and there he married Margaret Gray, one of the belles of his home neighborhood. As stated above, the Gastons came to this county, locating at Sardinia, where Mr. Gaston operated a general store for five or six years, becoming one of the best known men in that entire section of the county. The success which attended his effort as a village storekeeper enabled him presently to purchase an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres in the neighborhood, and on this farm he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring in 1893 and hers in 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Gaston were among the most influential factors in the life of that community. They both were persons of strong moral



fiber and were active in promoting all causes designed to advance the general good.

J. Minor Gaston's youth was spent in and near the village of Sardinia, his elementary education being received in the schools of that village. This schooling he supplemented by a course in the National Normal College, at Lebanon, Ohio, following which he went to the village of Westport, this county, where he engaged in the general merchandise business, continuing this form of commercial activity for four years. He also owned farm lands near Westport and gave these his direct personal attention. About the year 1905, Mr. Minor engaged in the banking business in Westport with J. S. Morris, who previously had opened a bank there, operating the same as a private bank. In 1912 Mr. Gaston sold his interest in the Westport bank and moved to Indianapolis, in which city he aided in the organization of the Marion County State Bank, being elected to the position of vice-president of the same, holding that position until 1914, in which year he was elected president of the bank, a position in which he is still serving. The other officers of the bank are Mr. Minor's son-in-law, Clarence C. Deupree, another Decatur county man, who is cashier, and John Duvall, vice-president. With Mr. Gaston's and Mr. Deupree's connection with this bank, it is hardly necessary to say that all Decatur county people find a hearty welcome when they step into that popular financial institution while visiting the capital city.

In 1913 Mr. Gaston also helped organize the Beech Grove State Bank, at Beech Grove, a suburb of Indianapolis. While officially known as the assistant cashier of this latter institution, Mr. Gaston is practically manager of the same, devoting nearly all of his time to this bank, being the only member of the management who does so. He has disposed of most of his holdings in this county, though still retaining some property at Westport, which place, through long association, he still likes to think of as home.

In 1885 J. Minor Gaston was united in marriage to Lottie Beesley, who was born at Brewersville, Indiana, daughter of Robert and Charlotte (Brumley) Beesley, the latter of whom is a native of England, having been brought to this country by her parents in her girlhood, and the former of whom was born in this country, of English parents, his birth having occurred shortly after his parents arrived in America. Robert Beesley and Charlotte Brumley were married at Brookville, this state, later moving to Jennings county, this state, where their daughter, Lottie, was reared on a farm. Mr. and Mrs. Beesley remained on the Jennings county farm until the year 1910, when they moved to Sardinia, this county, where their old

age is being spent in quiet and pleasant retirement. During his residence in Westport Mr. Gaston was accounted one of the most forceful and energetic men thereabout and much credit is given him by the people of that village for the part he took in public affairs there. In 1906 he was the president of the town board. During the years since its establishment as a hamlet, the town had grown up around the old cemetery, creating a situation that was very distasteful to many of the townspeople. Mr. Gaston promoted a movement for the location of a new cemetery, well outside the town limits. An ordinance to this effect was adopted by the town board and bonds were offered for sale. For some reason, however, these village bonds would not sell. Upon consulting an attorney, Mr. Gaston found that he was not barred from being a buyer of the bonds, even though a member of the board which authorized their issue, and he purchased the entire issue on his individual responsibility, thus insuring to the village the location of the cemetery at the point most popularly favored by the people thereabout. Though the action in moving the cemetery for a time aroused some opposition in the neighborhood, some desiring to retain the time-honored burial ground, that opposition long since has vanished, all now agreeing upon the desirability of the change. Westport cemetery, the new burial ground, is a beautiful plot, a credit to the town, and the townspeople are proud of it. The first interment in the new Westport cemetery was that of the body of Christopher Stott, who, at the time of his death, was the oldest man in Sand Creek township.

To J. Minor and Lottie (Beesley) Gaston one child has been born, a daughter, Stella Edith, who was born and reared on the same farm as was her father. On October 20, 1910, Stella Edith Gaston was united in marriage to Clarence C. Deupree, son of Thomas M. and Laura V. (Pritchard) Deupree, a member of one of the old families of this section of the state, who was born at Westport, this county, on January 8, 1888, and to this union there has been born one child, a son, Robert Gaston. Mr. Deupree is cashier of the Marion County State Bank at Indianapolis, and a biographical sketch of him, with a genealogy of his family, is presented elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaston are members of the First Baptist church at Indianapolis and are earnest in good works, the same kindly influence they exerted for so many years during the time of their residence in this county having been extended to their new field of labor in the state capital, where they have made many friends and are held in the highest esteem by all who know them.

## ISAAC H. TAYLOR.

The late Isaac H. Taylor, a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, who came to Decatur county, Indiana, with his parents in 1842, became, during his life, one of the most prominent farmers of Decatur county, and was rated by the friends he had and the men who knew him as one of the best citizens of the county. His goodness of heart and generous, lovable disposition naturally attracted to him many warm and ardent friends whom he cherished highly. Ever tender and loving to his wife and children, all were left, at his death, well provided with the comforts of life which the husband and father had worked so patiently and so diligently to acquire.

Born on July 26, 1838, Isaac H. Taylor passed away quietly on January 21, 1903, a few months after moving to Greensburg, Indiana. Mr. Taylor first settled on a farm near Horan, Indiana, which he later sold and then moved to a farm near Gaynorsville, on which he lived until his removal to Greensburg. This latter farm consisted of one hundred and sixty acres and, due to Mr. Taylor's prodigious toil, it was brought up to a high state of cultivation.

The late Isaac H. Taylor was twice married, the first time to Mary E. Miller, November 18, 1860. She died on November 30, 1863, and he married, secondly, March 9, 1865, Emily A. McConnell, who was born March 8, 1841, in Decatur county, the daughter of Archibald and Emily (Burk) McConnell, natives of Kentucky and early settlers in Decatur county. Of their family of seven children, only one, Mrs. Taylor, is now living. The parents died in 1851, when Mrs. Taylor was only ten years old. Her mother was the daughter of John Burk, a native of Kentucky, who built Burk's Chapel. The six deceased children, brothers and sisters of Mrs. Taylor, were: Elizabeth, Patsy Jane, John Burk, Archibald, Nancy and Chesley.

Of the children born to Isaac H. and Emily A. (McConnell) Taylor, three are deceased and four are still living: Emma, born on July 18, 1866, is the wife of Ira Scripture and lives at Moores Hill; George died in infancy; John, October 10, 1867, married Mollie S. Jackson on December 29, 1895, and lives in Henry county; James, October 2, 1871, lives on a farm near Sandusky, Decatur county; Mary died in infancy; Gertrude, October 2, 1875, died December 31, 1893, and Hugh, February 2, 1879, living on a farm two miles north of Greensburg, married Otie Fiscus.

Of the late Isaac H. Taylor it may be said that he was one of the best

men in all Decatur county, a man whose heart was pure, whose motives sincere and aboveboard, and whose will was centered on any means which might be taken to uplift his neighbors or his fellows. During his residence in the country, he and his wife were loyal and faithful members of Burk's Chapel of the Methodist Episcopal church, a building which had been originally erected by Mrs. Taylor's maternal grandfather. Faithful in all of the duties of life, Isaac H. Taylor well deserved the confidence of his fellow-men. This confidence, so freely bestowed upon him, was the result of true merit.

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#### R. RAY HAMILTON.

The Hamilton family in Greensburg township, this county, is descended from William Warder Hamilton, who was one of the best-known farmers and citizens of the state, a native of Carlisle, Kentucky, born in 1821, who died in 1907. Coming to Decatur county, Indiana, during the forties, he settled in Fugit township and became one of the largest farmers in this section of Indiana. He was especially well known because of his connection with the board of agriculture, having for some time served as president of that body. R. Ray Hamilton, the subject of this sketch, is a representative of the third generation of this family in Decatur county, a grandson of William Warder Hamilton.

R. Ray Hamilton was born on April 8, 1876, the son of William Brutus and Catherine (Cunningham) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in 1848 and died on September 17, 1903, and the latter of whom was born in Warren county, Ohio, in 1849 and died in February, 1905. William Brutus Hamilton was one of two sons born to William Warder Hamilton and wife. Cassius, the other son, is a farmer living near Greensburg and is well known throughout the county. Mrs. Catherine Hamilton was a well-educated, intelligent and refined woman, who, after coming to Decatur county from Ohio, taught school for several years until her marriage to William Brutus Hamilton. They had four children: William Cassius, who is a coal dealer in Indianapolis; Florine, the wife of Elmer Roland, formerly of Columbus, Indiana, who has one child, Kathryn; Richard Ray, the subject of this sketch, and Harry Warder, a well-known manufacturer of Indianapolis, who married Disney Bird, to which union three children were born, two now living and one deceased, William Warder, Helen Florine and Harry Cassius, the latter of whom died in 1914 at the age of three years.



R. Ray Hamilton received a splendid educational training for business. After completing the prescribed course in the public schools of Greensburg, being graduated from the high school, he was for some time a student in one of the business colleges at Indianapolis, where he was especially well prepared for business. For several years he was engaged in the stone business with his father-in-law, Ira J. Hollensbe. At the present time they are engaged in the manufacture of automobile radiators, the firm being known as the Take-Apart Radiator Company, the auto radiator being an invention controlled by the firm. This company has enjoyed an unusual success, due in a large measure to the business foresight of Mr. Hamilton. His exceptional business ability is not unusual, since his father, William Brutus Hamilton, was a very successful business man. Reared on a farm, his father was engaged for many years in the hardware business and later became a pioneer promoter of telephone enterprises, in association with the Bell Telephone Company. He was the manager of many telephone companies and at one time, in association with five other members of the family, owned the Hamilton Gas Company, a concern which was finally sold to the Muddyfork company. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and he was politically identified with the Democratic party.

On June 8, 1898, R. Ray Hamilton was married to Myrtle Hollensbe, the daughter of Ira J. Hollensbe, for many years a well-known manufacturer of Decatur county, and to this union three children have been born: Ira Brutus, born on September 4, 1899; Richard Ray, July 13, 1901, and William Hollensbe, November 5, 1909.

Mr. Hamilton is a Democrat and is at present a member of the Greensburg board of education. He was a member of the board at the time the new high school building was erected. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are active members of the Presbyterian church at Greensburg.

Not only has R. Ray Hamilton made a gratifying success in business, but his success has not been won by any sacrifice of principle or yielding up of the respect of those with whom he has had dealings. As a citizen, he has been especially active in educational affairs and is entitled to no small part of the credit for the high standard of the Greensburg schools today. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are socially popular in Greensburg and are among the most hospitable entertainers in the city.

## CLIFFORD G. ASKIN.

Among all the numerous county reunions held at Indianapolis during the summer months, meetings for the foregathering of the former residents of the respective counties of the state who, for one reason or another, have found their ways to the capital city, none is more largely attended or marked by a larger flow of real fraternal feeling than is the annual reunion of Decatur county folk now living in the capital. Much of the success and good fellowship of these annually recurring reunions of exiled Decatur county folk undoubtedly may be attributed to the untiring zeal of the genial president of the Decatur County Association of Indianapolis, Clifford G. Askin, a former well-known resident of Forest Hill, this county, who for many years has been engaged in business at Indianapolis, where he has made a distinctive place for himself as a funeral director. Mr. Askin is one of the best-known undertakers in the state of Indiana, his reputation, indeed, extending beyond the borders of the state. He is proprietor of the well-known Askin Training School of Embalmers at Indianapolis, an institution which counts its graduates in all parts of the country, and since 1911 he has held the chair of embalming in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, a position which has given him a most unusual opportunity to aid in the dissemination of proper information regarding the best and most hygienic disposition of the dead. In the councils of the National Undertakers' Association and of the Indiana State Undertakers' Association, Mr. Askin occupies an important and leading position, his counsels ever being accepted with respect and consideration in those bodies. Among all the many Decatur county folk who have gone out into the wider world none is held in higher esteem here at home than he, and it very properly may be said that none retains a livelier interest in old home affairs. It is his constant delight to keep in touch with his old home and with his many friends in this county, and he is acknowledged by the Decatur county colony at Indianapolis to be the very life of the annual reunions of that colony in the capital city.

Clifford G. Askin was born at Forest Hill, this county, on March 31, 1878, the son of George and Hannah (Harris) Askin, the former of whom was born in 1836 and died on March 10, 1910. George Askin was born at Tobbercurry, near Sligo, Ireland, a son of Richard and Ann Askin, the latter of whom was of English birth. Richard Askin died when his son, George, was ten years old, and his widow emigrated to America with her little family of four sons and one daughter, of whom George was the young-

est. The family landed in New York City, proceeding thence to Rochester, New York, in which city George remained, the other members of the family coming to this county, where the eldest son established a permanent home for his mother and brothers and sister in the Forest Hill neighborhood. George Askin was apprenticed to the cabinet maker's trade at Rochester, and remained there until he had completed his trade, at the end of which time he rejoined his family in this county. Here he followed his trade for a few years, after which he entered a general store at Forest Hill as a clerk. This form of business appealed to him so strongly that he presently bought the store from his employer and continued in business at Forest Hill for more than twenty-five years, becoming a man of large and admirable influence throughout that whole section of the county. In the spring of 1896 he sold his store and bought a farm at the edge of Forest Hill, where he engaged in farming until 1909, in which year he retired and moved to Indianapolis, where his death occurred the following March. Mr. Askin ever was interested in movements affecting the public welfare in the county and particularly in that section of the county in which for so many years he was a leader in business affairs. During the seventies and early eighties he was postmaster of Forest Hill and was very popular as an official, his service in that connection being fondly remembered by the older people thereabout. He was a member of the Methodist church, in the affairs of which he ever took a warm interest, and was a potent factor for good in the community. He was a stanch Republican, though not in any way offensive in his partisanship, respecting the views of others, even as he was firm in his own views and opinions. As a leader of the party in his section of the county, his political services throughout the county ever were appreciated by the managers of the party in this section of the state.

In 1868 George Askin was united in marriage to Hannah Harris, who was born at Dunlapville, near Liberty, Indiana, a daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Kromb) Harris. Isaac Harris was born in New Jersey, in which state his youth was spent. He became a very proficient shoemaker and in his early manhood came to Indiana, locating at Dunlapville, where he opened a shoeshop and where the rest of his life was spent. His wife, Sarah Kromb, was born in Union county, this state, a daughter of John and Sarah (Combs) Kromb, the former of whom was a native of Holland, and the latter a native of New Jersey. John Kromb emigrated to this country in his young manhood, coming to Indiana, where he became a well-known pioneer of the Liberty neighborhood. Sarah Kromb grew up in Union county and was married there to Isaac Harris. In 1855 Isaac Harris and

his family moved to Boone county, this state, where, in 1858, Mrs. Harris died, leaving seven children, Mrs. Askin being one of these. Upon the death of his wife, Isaac Harris moved back to Union county, where he remarried and moved to Rush county, where his second wife died. He married again and spent the rest of his life in Rush county, his death occurring in the town of Glenwood. Mrs. Askin spent her girlhood partly in Franklin and partly in Union county, later living at Lebanon, in Boone county. Upon her marriage to Mr. Askin her home was changed to Forest Hill, in this county, where she immediately became a strong factor in the social and religious life of that community, her influence ever being exerted for the good. She is now living in Indianapolis, honored and respected by all who know her.

To George and Hannah (Harris) Askin were born three children, namely: Clifford G., the immediate subject of this sketch; Henry J., a well-known member of the Indianapolis detective force, and Effie M., who married John M. Barbour and lives at Lawrence, Indiana.

Clifford G. Askin spent his early youth in the town of Forest Hill, his education being received in the excellent schools of that town. When he was eighteen years of age his father moved to the farm, and there Clifford G. remained until he was twenty-four years of age, at which time he moved to Indianapolis, entering upon a position there with an undertaking firm. He remained with this firm one year, at the end of which time he formed a partnership with Charles H. Royster, and went into business for himself, the establishment of Royster & Askin at that time being located in the western part of the city. This firm continued operations there for five years, and in 1910 moved to its present centrally located and commodious quarters at 837 North Illinois street, in the city of Indianapolis, where it has a large and constantly growing patronage among the best families in the city. This establishment is one of the finest and most thoroughly equipped in the state of Indiana.

Clifford G. Askin, as stated in the introduction to this narrative, has made for himself a distinctive place in undertaking circles over the state and throughout the middle states, and enjoys the unreserved confidence of business circles generally in Indianapolis. Two years after he had established the Askin Training School of Embalming, Mr. Askin associated with him in that branch of the business Dr. W. B. Ryan, another Decatur county man, who was added to the staff as instructor. Doctor Ryan died two years or more ago, since which time Mr. Askin has conducted this valuable train-



ing school alone. His position with the faculty of the University of Michigan, he having occupied the chair of embalming in that excellent institution since 1911, has proved a means of extending his influence as a scientific embalmer into all parts of the country, and there are few hygienists who enjoy a better established reputation along this particular line than he.

Mr. Askin is a member of the Tabernacle Presbyterian church at Indianapolis and is held in high esteem among his large circle of friends in the capital city. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, retaining his membership in the lodge at Clifty, this county, of which lodge he became a member during his residence in the Forest Hill neighborhood, and in the affairs of which he continues to take a warm interest. He also is a member of the Masonic order, his membership being held in Mystic Tie Lodge at Indianapolis, and he also is a member of the Loyal Order of Moose and of the Improved Order of Red Men, in the same city. Mr. Askin is president of the Decatur County Association of Indianapolis and is one of the prime movers in the annual meetings of that society, these meetings, held in one or another of the pleasant parks with which the capital abounds, proving a season of rare enjoyment and fellowship to all the numerous Decatur county folk who make their home in Indiana's chief city. He is very popular with all the members of the Decatur colony there and enjoys their highest confidence and esteem.

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#### WILLIAM H. MIERS.

Having resided all his life on the farm on which he was born, in Clay township, this county, few men in that part of Decatur county are better known than William H. Miers, the genial owner of "Tanglewood Farm," one of the most progressive and popular men in his vicinity, a brief and modest biographical sketch of whom it is a pleasure for the biographer to present at this point in this history of the prominent families of Decatur county.

William H. Miers was born on the farm on which he now lives, in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, August 31, 1853, the son of John L. and Rebecca (Braden) Miers, the former of whom was born in 1842 and died in October, 1912, and the latter of whom was born in 1839 and died in October, 1913. John Laughlin Miers was a native of Virginia who came to this county at an early day and became one of the best-known pioneers of the Clay township section of the county. He married Rebecca Braden, daughter of

Jack Braden, a Kentuckian, who came to this county at an early period in the settlement of the same and was prominent in the pioneer life of the community in which he located. John L. Miers was one of the most prosperous and influential residents of Clay township in his day and generation. He became the owner of three hundred acres of land, which he brought to an excellent state of cultivation and was regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of the county. For two terms he served as township trustee of Clay township and his enterprising and public-spirited administration of that office undoubtedly did very much toward advancing the best interests of the township and in the establishment of the present stable conditions therein. He was highly reputed throughout that part of the county and his recent death was the occasion for much mourning on the part of his many friends. The death of his widow in the following year was none the less the occasion of mourning, for she, too, was held in the highest respect thereabout, having been a woman who ceaselessly went about doing good.

To John L. and Rebecca (Braden) Miers were born six children, Thomas, James and Oscar, all now deceased; Herschell, who lives on the Goff farm, in Adams township, this county; Mrs. Della Ford, of Greensburg, this county, and William H., the immediate subject of this sketch.

William H. Miers received his education in the schools of Clay township and was reared to the life of the farm. He inherited a portion of the home farm, including the homestead, and added to this inheritance by buying an adjoining tract, bringing his place up to its present acreage, one hundred and eighty acres; all of which he has brought under excellent cultivation, and on which he has made numerous and substantial improvements. The home on "Tanglewood Farm" is a pretty and comfortable brick cottage, trimmed in green, and the outlying farm buildings surrounding the big yellow barn are in keeping with the general well-kept appearance of the place, the whole presenting a fine picture of substantial farm life. Mr. Miers takes much pride in his livestock, particularly in the fine breed of his Percheron and Belgian horses and his Shorthorn and Jersey cattle.

In January, 1879, William H. Miers was united in marriage to Lida Graham, daughter of John G. Graham, a one-time well-known farmer of Clay township, this county, a large landowner in that township and in Bartholomew county, this state, who died some years ago at Hartsville.

To William H. and Lida (Graham) Miers seven children have been born, namely: Ray, who farms a part of the Anderson farm, married Ethel Anderson and has three children, Dale, Margaret and Marion; Merle, housekeeper for her uncle at Hartsville; Oscar, who lives three and one-half miles

northeast of his father's place, married Eva Worliden; Mrs. Nellie Wildman, who lives on the home farm, has one child, a son, Van Pierce; Sherman, a traveling salesman for the Heinze Company; Wayne, who lives at home, and Gladys, a stenographer, living at Indianapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Miers are members of the Christian church and take an active and earnest part in the good works of their community, being regarded as among the leaders in all movements designed to elevate the standards of living thereabout. Mr. Miers is a Democrat and takes a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county, though never having posed as an active politician. He is interested in all matters of good government, however, and is looked upon as one of the most substantial and dependable men in that part of the county.

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### JOHN C. HAYS.

Not only are the business interest of Decatur county well represented, but in the main they are under capable direction. The merchants of the county are enterprising, energetic and up-to-date, their stores generally being well-stocked and operated along modern lines. Among these merchants there are few who have a wider reputation for enterprise and energy than the affable gentleman whose name the reader notes above. No town in the county is better located than the pleasant village of Burney, in Clay township, the country thereabout being one of the very garden spots of Indiana. Wealthy and prosperous farmers give to the neighborhood an air of substantiality most impressive to the casual visitor at Burney and the well-kept appearance of the delightful village bespeaks the enterprise and thrift of the inhabitants thereof. The business of the town is conducted by enterprising and energetic men who are devoted to the best interests of the whole community and who are constantly striving to advance the general welfare of that section of the county. Among these merchants none is better known than John C. Hays, proprietor of the popular general store at Burney, and it is a pleasure for the biographer to call the attention of the reader at this point to some of the salient points in Mr. Hay's interesting career as a merchant and as a public-spirited citizen. Beginning practically with nothing, Mr. Hays entered upon his career as a merchant at Burney fourteen years ago, and in that time has built up one of the most successful and popular general merchandise stores in the county. "Satisfied customers" ever has been his motto, and the popularity his well-stocked store enjoys throughout

the entire western section of the county as well as in the adjacent sections of Shelby and Bartholomew counties affords ample evidence that, in the direction of his constantly growing commercial interests, he ever has been faithful to this motto. Mr. Hays is one of the most enthusiastic boosters of Clay township and the village of Burney and ever is found in the lead in any movement designed to promote the best interests of that section of the county. Possessed of exceptional business ability, Mr. Hays has built up a trade of which any merchant in a town many times the size of Burney might well be proud, and is very properly regarded as one of the most enterprising and substantial citizens of the county. He has learned the valuable secret of being able to adapt his business to the territory which it is designed to cover, early in his experience having added to the motto above mentioned the equally efficacious phrase: "Quality, not quantity." By keeping his select and compact stock constantly replenished, Mr. Hays is able to cater to the discriminating trade of that section with the best and most up-to-date goods, thus continually making good the first part of his motto relating to "satisfied customers." Mr. Hays maintains a motor-truck huckster service which covers the entire region embraced in his territory of trade and spares no effort to accommodate and satisfy his customers, his enterprising ways and obliging manner having gained for him the undivided friendship of the whole region.

John C. Hays was born in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, on June 12, 1874, son of Judson and Mary E. (Jones) Hays, prominent residents of that township. Judson Hays was a pioneer tilemaker of Decatur county, his tile-kiln in Clay township being one of the most important industries thereabout. Not only was the clay of that section of the county well adapted to the purposes of tile-making, but Mr. Hay's careful and scientific study of the processes of tile-making lent to his product a quality which caused it to be much sought by farmers throughout this whole region and thousands of acres of well-drained land hereabout have been greatly increased in value by the discriminating and intelligent use of the product of this once well-known kiln. Judson Hays died in 1895, the death of his widow occurring not long thereafter. Both were most estimable people and their passing was deeply mourned by many.

To Judson and Mary E. (Jones) Hays were born seven children, namely: Flora, who married Will Pumphrey, of this county; Dora, who married Jacob Kuntz; John C., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mamie, who married Clarence Maze; Gertrude, who married Tilden Knouse; Katie, who married Walter Skinner, and Karl, who lives at Detroit.

J. C. Hays was reared on a farm and for a time was an assistant to his



father at the tile-kiln, but did not attempt to continue the operation of that plant at his father's death. Fourteen years ago he engaged in the general merchandise business at Burney and has been very successful. Starting with a small stock, but with a practical knowledge of the needs of his trade, he gradually increased the scope of his business until now he has a thriving trade, covering a wide territory. His commercial methods from the very start were enterprising, his desire to give the very best service possible leading him to employ only the best and most approved agencies for the promotion of his trade. The straightforward and direct manner appealed to his customers immediately and it was not long until he was prospering as he deserved to prosper. These conditions continued and now Mr. Hays is regarded as one of the most substantial merchants in the western part of the county.

On December 24, 1895, John C. Hays was united in marriage to Mattie Edwards, who was born in Kentucky, the daughter of Daniel Edwards, who now lives at Columbus, this state, and to this union two children have been born, Lory and Mrytle Irene. Mr. and Mrs. Hays are members of the Baptist church and take an earnest interest in the good works of the community, being regarded as among the leaders in all movements helpful to the general welfare.

Mr. Hays is a Republican and gives a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the county, though never having been included in the office-seeking class. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney and is one of the leaders in the affairs of that lodge. Genial, affable and accommodating, he is one of the most popular men thereabout and has hosts of warm friends.

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#### WEBSTER HOLLAND HOLMES.

Among the former residents of Decatur county who now are successfully engaged in business in the state capital, few are better known or have a more popular following among old friends in this county than Webster H. Holmes, a prominent building contractor, formerly of Horace, this county, now living in Indianapolis, where he has been quite successful in his building operations.

Webster Holland Holmes was born in Clinton county, Ohio, on June 7, 1856, the son of the Rev. William and Elizabeth (Cowgill) Holmes, old and honored residents of that section of Ohio. Rev. William Holmes, a

"local" minister of the Methodist church, was born in New Jersey in September, 1808. He grew to manhood in that state and then migrated to Ohio, locating in Clinton county, where he engaged in farming and where he spent the rest of his life. He was one of the best-known "local" ministers of the Methodist church in that part of Ohio, and for over fifty years was engaged in preaching the Gospel, to him ever a labor of love, for "local" ministers of the Methodist church received no compensation for their services in those days. Three of his sons served their country faithfully and well as soldiers in the Union arm during the Civil War and the family was highly honored and respected throughout that whole section of the state. William Holmes was a member of an old family in New Jersey, his father being of sound Colonial stock, and his first wife, who, before her marriage, was Katherine Brouse, was also of an old family in that section.

Rev. William Holmes married, secondly, Elizabeth Cowgill, who was born in Clinton county, Ohio, daughter of William Cowgill, a pioneer of that section of Ohio, of Scottish descent. Mrs. Holmes was a most excellent woman. She lived all her life in Clinton county, both she and her husband spending their last days on the farm near Sabina, Ohio, within twelve miles of the point where she was born.

Webster H. Holmes received his education in the district schools of his native county in Ohio, this schooling constantly being supplemented by the sound admonitions of his godly father and mother. Upon reaching manhood he engaged in farming and for twelve years was thus engaged in the neighborhood of his home. In 1887 he moved to Morgan county, Tennessee, where he remained for a year, engaged in the lumber business, at the end of which time he moved to a farm near Williamstown, Kentucky, on which he lived for three years. In 1891 he moved to a farm five miles south of Greensburg, in this county, and became a general building contractor, his operations in that line being extended to various parts of the county. This venture proving successful, he later moved to the village of Horace, this county, where he remained until 1906, in which year he moved to Indianapolis, seeking a wider field for his building operations, and has been quite successful in the capital city, being well recognized and respected among the master carpenters of that city.

On October 19, 1876, Webster H. Holmes was united in marriage at Hillsborough, Ohio, to Martha E. Marsh, who was born on October 13, 1856, and to this union five children have been born, Aura A., Jessie L., Oscar W., Ilo (deceased) and Daisy.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmes are members of the Methodist church and their

children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Holmes retains his membership in the Knights of Pythias lodge at Greensburg, and continues to take a warm interest in the affairs of the same, as well as in the general affairs of the county in which he formerly made his home. He and Mrs. Holmes are quite popular in the considerable Decatur county colony at the state capital and are held in the highest esteem by their many friends.

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#### CLAY ALEXANDER.

Clay Alexander is a representative farmer, liveryman and stockman of Clay township. In his life he has outstripped many of those less active on the highway of life and during the last decade, especially, has made a considerable amount of money in the various enterprises in which he has been engaged. He is a man of unfailing integrity and one whose word is generally recognized as being as good as his bond. He owns a farm three miles south of Burney and is engaged in the livery, feed and sales business in Burney.

Clay Alexander was born in Bartholomew county, Indiana, on June 8, 1862, son of A. J. and Charlotta (Steward) Alexander, the former of whom was a native of Butler county, Ohio, born in 1839, who came to Indiana when he was eighteen years old, settling in Bartholomew county. He later owned eighty acres of land near Hartsville, but traded this for one hundred and sixty acres of land in this county, to which he moved and there spent the remainder of his active business life. Charlotta Steward, who was born in Ireland, came with her parents when six years old to America. They settled in Bartholomew county, Indiana, where she was married to A. J. Alexander and by industry, economy and shrewd management, she and her husband became prosperous farmers. Clay Alexander was about thirteen years old when his parents came to Decatur county and he lived on the old Alexander homestead south of Burney, in Clay township, until he was twenty-seven years old.

At the age of twenty-seven, Clay Alexander was married to Mollie Elliott, daughter of James Elliott, after which he moved to Hartsville where for a time he was engaged in various callings. Later he rented a farm for a year and then moved to Burney where he engaged in teaming and kindred work for fifteen years. At the end of that time, Mr. Alexander built the livery barn in Burney, which he still owns. He has been in the hay, straw,

feed and livery business since that time and has a flourishing patronage in this county. He buys large quantities of hay and straw and ships it to distant points, after bailing. For ten years he has been an extensive dealer in horses and about three years ago purchased eighty acres of land three miles south of Burney. This farm is operated by a tenant and its chief products are corn and clover; he is also a breeder of hogs.

Clay Alexander is a stanch Republican and one of the leaders of his party in Clay township. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge in Burney. Mrs. Alexander is a member of the Baptist church. She is the local correspondent of the *Greensburg Daily News* and for thirteen years had charge of the Independent Telephone Company's plant at Burney. Mr. Alexander is one of the solid and substantial citizens of Decatur county and for the past ten years has made a remarkable record in business. Both he and his wife are well liked and respected by the people of the community in which they live.

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#### CHARLES E. REMY.

In agricultural circles in Decatur county, few names are better known than that of the gentleman whose name the reader notes above and few men in the county have constructed their careers on a more solid foundation than has he. Recognized as one of the most substantial and progressive farmers in the county, Mr. Remy also is known as a public-spirited citizen to whom every movement looking to the betterment of general conditions in his home county is welcome, finding in him an earnest and influential supporter. Mr. Remy brings to his farm work an active intelligence, stimulated by the best schooling and grounded on the fullest and latest information relating to the most modern methods of tilling the soil and, in consequence, has prospered as he deserves to have prospered. A native of this county, of as fine stock as ever made its influence felt here; his father a physician of note and power in his day, his grandfather a pioneer minister of the Baptist faith, whose influence in southern Indiana still goes on, even to the third and fourth generation, Mr. Remy very properly may be regarded as one of the leaders in the community life of Decatur county, and the biographer takes much pleasure in presenting at this point a brief review of his life.

Charles E. Remy was born on a farm in Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, six miles south of the town of Greensburg, on July 15, 1869, the son of Dr. Alfred S. and Anna M. (Kluge) Remy, the former of whom



was born near the town of Brookville, Franklin county, Indiana, and the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania.

Alfred S. Remy was born on October 4, 1819, the son of the Rev. James I. Remy, a native of South Carolina, of French Huguenot stock, a pioneer minister of the Baptist faith in southern Indiana; a man who exerted a powerful influence for good throughout the region round about Brookville, where for many years he lived and labored. Rev. James I. Remy married an Adair and one of the children of this union, Alfred S. Remy, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, became a physician, who practiced his profession for many years in this county, at the same time carrying on extensive operations as a farmer. Dr. Alfred S. Remy was a graduate of Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati and for a time following his graduation practiced his profession in Jennings county, this state, later coming to Decatur county, locating in Marion township, where he bought a farm of one hundred and seventy-one acres, to which he later added one hundred and forty acres, making three hundred and eleven acres in all, forty acres of which lay in Jennings county.

Doctor Remy was twice married. To his union with Almira Jane Scoby, who was born on December 24, 1821, and who died on May 6, 1862, there were born four children, Dr. Alfred S. Jr., born on January 1, 1847, who died in 1880; Henry, born on October 30, 1850, who resides at Concordia, Kansas; Mary Ellen, who died on September 21, 1852, at the age of one year, and Orlando Ellsworth, born on April 4, 1861, who is a resident of Denver, Colorado. Upon the death of his wife, Almira, Doctor Remy married, secondly, Anna Kluge, who was born at Lebanon, Pennsylvania, December 26, 1839, and who died in this county on October 28, 1898, to which union two children were born, Charles E., the subject of this sketch, and Emma Catherine, the latter of whom was born on September 27, 1867, and died on September 25 of the next year. The father of these children died on March 31, 1890, having been a man of much influence in his day and generation.

Charles E. Remy received his elementary education in the district schools of his home township in this county, supplementing this schooling with a course in Hope College. He then entered upon his career as a farmer and for years lived on the home place in Marion township. He bought the interest of the other heirs in his father's estate and added to the home farm until he now owns four hundred acres of choice land in that part of the county. In connection with his work as a general farmer, Mr. Remy has given considerable attention to the breeding of live stock and has cultivated

only the best strains of stock on his farm. In 1909 Mr. Remy retired from active farm life and moved into Greensburg, where he has a very pleasant home. He still gives close personal direction to the affairs of his farm and is keenly alive to all the advancements in the present-day science of agriculture.

On September 23, 1891, Charles E. Remy was united in marriage to Catherine Lowe, who was born in Decatur county, the daughter of Samuel T. and Martha Lowe, also natives of this county, to which union two children were born, one who died in infancy, and Edith, who married Charles Martin, of Greensburg.

Samuel T. Lowe, who was born in this county in November, 1835, for many years was one of the most prominent and influential residents of Marion township. He was a farmer on a large scale and was known throughout this section as a successful stock buyer, being also a large shipper of mules. He was an ardent Democrat and was actively interested in the political affairs of the county. For many years he served as trustee of Marion township, his services in that connection proving of large value to the public. His father, Jonathan Lowe, was one of the early pioneers of this county, a native of Kentucky who came to Indiana at an early day in the settlement of this section, first settling in the Paoli neighborhood, but later coming to Decatur county, entering government land in Marion township. He died in 1836, leaving to his widow, who was Elizabeth Whitman, previous to her marriage, the duty of rearing a considerable family, most of the children of this family still being young at the time of their father's death. This duty she performed with the energy of the true pioneer mother and was able to add to the family's holdings by the additional entry of land in her own name. Samuel T. Lowe reared a large family and in his later years moved to South West City, Missouri, where his death occurred in March, 1913. His widow is still making her home in that city.

Mr. and Mrs. Remy are members of the Presbyterian church at Greensburg and are active workers therein. Mr. Remy is a Republican and takes an earnest interest in the political affairs of this county and the state at large. He several times has been a delegate to the state conventions of his party and in 1912 was a delegate to the historic national convention of the party at Chicago. He is a member of the local lodges of the Elks, of the Knights of Pythias and of the Woodmen, in the affairs of all of which he takes an active interest. He and Mrs. Remy take a proper interest in the social affairs of the city in which they live and are very popular, being held in the highest regard by a large circle of friends.

## FRANCIS M. PUMPHREY.

At the election in 1914 Clay township elected one of the foremost and most progressive citizens of Decatur county to serve in the important and responsible office of township trustee, one of the most important offices within the gift of the people; the office which bears a closer relation to the intimate affairs of a community than any other. That the nomination for this office was given to Francis M. Pumphrey by a vote of two to one is satisfactory evidence that the people of the township were convinced of that gentleman's eminent qualifications for the proper and faithful administration of the affairs of this office, and his subsequent election by a very gratifying majority was further confirmation. Mr. Pumphrey is devoted to the school interests of his home township, holding the belief that in educational matters no pains or expense should be spared to secure the best results in behalf of the youth of the township. Clay township schools are well organized and the township high school at Burney is the pride of the township. Erected at a cost of something like fifteen thousand dollars, this admirable high-school building is thoroughly equipped with all the modern appliances for an up-to-date educational plant and the assurance is given that Trustee Pumphrey will neglect no precaution necessary to further advance the high reputation this excellent school has earned throughout that section of the county. Unusually successful in the management of his own extensive business enterprises, Mr. Pumphrey is bringing to bear on his administration of the affairs of his new office the same sound judgment and fine executive ability that has brought him a pronounced personal success, and the general consensus of opinion thereabout is that the affairs of the township are in most competent and capable hands. Mr. Pumphrey for years has been largely interested in the stock-buying business and is known far and wide as one of the most extensive buyers and shippers of live stock in Decatur county. He owns two small farms, one of sixty acres, one-fourth of a mile north of the village of Burney, and one of forty acres, three-fourths of a mile south of that town, and, while giving to these farms his careful attention, makes his chief business that of a stock dealer, a business in which he has been actively engaged since he was twenty years of age.

Francis M. Pumphrey was born on the home farm in Clay township in the year 1865 and has always lived in that township. He is the son of William and Lodusky (Jewell) Pumphrey, former prominent and well-known residents of Clay township, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky,

who died about six years ago at the age of seventy-two years, and the latter of whom died about twenty years ago.

William Pumphrey was a staunch and stable citizen, a successful farmer and a leader in the good works of the community in which he had lived so long. He and his wife were members of the Methodist church and their children were reared with the strictest regard for all the moral obligations of good citizenship. William Pumphrey abhorred profanity and all coarseness of speech and his sons grew up with the same feeling of repugnance toward such forms of expression, and it is a matter of pleasant neighborhood note that to this day no one can be found who ever has heard any of the Pumphrey "boys" swear. Though a successful farmer along the general lines of agriculture, William Pumphrey's specialty was the breeding of hogs and cattle for the market and his son, the immediate subject of this sketch, came into the live-stock business quite naturally.

To William and Lodusky (Jewell) Pumphrey were born eight children, namely: James A., a prominent farmer of Clay township, who lives north of Burney, on one of the finest and best farms in Decatur county; Francis M., the immediate subject of this sketch; William, who lives in Shelbyville, Indiana; Edwin, a progressive and up-to-date farmer living three-fourths of a mile north of Burney; Elizabeth, the wife of Frank Alline, a well-known farmer living one and one-half miles south of Burney; Fannie, the wife of Joseph Minor, of Burney; May, the wife of Clyde Elliott, a well-known farmer living one mile west of Burney, and Iva, the wife of Earl Littell, of Indianapolis.

Francis M. Pumphrey was reared on the paternal farm in Clay township, receiving his education in the excellent schools of that township. At the age of twenty years, he engaged in the live-stock business on his own responsibility and has become one of the most successful stock buyers in Decatur county, it being doubtful if any dealer in the county handles more stock in the course of a year than does he. When twenty-three years of age, Mr. Pumphrey was united in marriage to Margaret Stealman, daughter of James Stealman, a prominent farmer of the Burney neighborhood. James Stealman, now deceased, was a native of Virginia, whose home was near the famous natural bridge.

To Francis M. and Margaret (Stealman) Pumphrey have been born three children, Floyd, who married May Champ and lives at Burney; Isophene and Marie, the daughters both being at home. Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey are members of the Baptist church at Burney and take a leading part in the general good works of the community, being highly regarded throughout that



whole section of the county. Mr. Pumphrey is a Democrat and for years has taken an active part in local politics, though he had never been a candidate for public office until his recent successful candidacy for the office of township trustee. He is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney and has been one of the most active promoters of the interests of that popular organization. His extensive business affairs have brought him into touch with the leaders of the business interests of Decatur county for years and he enjoys the unbounded confidence and the utmost esteem of all his associates.

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#### HENRY M. REDELMAN.

Henry M. Redelman, farmer and stock breeder of Marion township, this county, is a representative of the second generation of the Redelman family in America. The owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land, one hundred acres of which is in timber, situated in Marion township, Mr. Redelman has been a breeder of live stock for many years. He owns four registered Percheron mares, two Percheron stallions, a German coach stallion, Ernus, and one jack. He began breeding Aberden Angus cattle in 1898, and now raises, feeds and sells a great many head every year. He also keeps thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs, which he raises for breeding purposes, selling them all over Decatur county. His breed is widely and favorably known, particularly since his farm is immune from cholera. He also has specialized in poultry and is an extensive fancier of thoroughbred Barred Plymouth Rocks. He sells pullets, roosters and settings and has a large business in poultry. Of the stallions which Mr. Redelman owns, "Massala" is an educated horse that has been taught many tricks. A fine driving mare has also been trained to perform many tricks. Mr. Redelman's fine farm house is thoroughly modern, having been remodeled in 1913 and painted a salmon color. It is equipped with an acetyline-light plant and with a private water system. A large yellow barn, forty-six by fifty-six feet, with sheds on three sides, giving plenty of room, and other attractive out-buildings, including a garage, make the Redelman farm one of the most attractive spots in Marion township. The owner and proprietor of this farm has every reason to be proud of his success as a farmer and breeder.

Born on May 31, 1854, in Decatur county, Indiana, Henry M. Redelman is the son of Mathias and Mary (Bergsterman) Redelman, both natives of Germany, the former of whom was born in 1820, and died in 1855, and the

latter of whom was born in 1826, and died in 1866. Mathias Redelman came to America in 1849 and after spending a few years in Cincinnati came to this county, locating in Marion township, where he purchased a farm two miles south of that now owned by his son, Henry M. He and his wife were the parents of two sons, Henry M. and John W., the latter of whom died in 1895. After her husband's death, Mrs. Mathias Redelman married Bernard Rolfes, to which union one child was born, Herman, who died in infancy. After Mrs. Rolfes' death, in 1866, Bernard Rolfes married an aunt of Henry M. Redelman's. Mrs. Mary Redelman, the widow of Frank, who was the mother of eight children at the time of the marriage, and who after her second marriage gave birth to three more. Of the eight children born to Frank and Mary Redelman, the whereabouts of two, H. B. and John, are unknown. Of the others, Ferdinand, is living at Peoria, Illinois; Rosina married Adam Ruhl, and died in Nebraska; Mrs. Christina Ruhl lives in Minnesota; Frank lives in Franklin county; Joseph is deceased, and Mrs. Mary Wagner lives in Peoria, Illinois. The three Rolfes children are Herman, of Washington township; Elizabeth, who married Orville King, of Greensburg, and Mrs. Katie Stier, of Harris City.

Beginning life on his own account in 1869, at the age of fifteen years, Henry M. Redelman learned the cigarmaker's trade in Cincinnati. After serving his apprenticeship he worked for three months in Indianapolis and then went to St. Louis, where he found his trade unprofitable. About that time he began selling medicine, traveling with a horse and rig in Illinois in 1873 and in Missouri in 1874. In the fall of 1874 he returned to Indiana, driving through from St. Louis. Here he followed his business for several years, eventually settling on a farm in 1885.

Two years before removing to the farm, Henry M. Redelman was married, on November 27, 1883, to Sarah A. Hermann, who was born in this county on February 25, 1864, the daughter of Joseph and Susanna (Young) Hermann, the latter of whom came to this country at the age of six years with her parents, who located in Ohio. There were five children in the Hermann family, those besides Mrs. Redelman being as follow: Susanna, now deceased, who married Valentine Hahn, of Marion township, this county; Lizzie, who, upon the death of her sister, Susanna, married the latter's husband, Valentine Hahn, and is now living in Marion township; Josephine, who married Michael Wurtz, of Indianapolis, this state; and Henry, a well-known farmer of Marion township, this county, who married Katie Lohman. The mother of these children was twice married, her first husband having been a Mr. Farraday, a native of Germany, who died about

1849, to which union there were born two children, Mary, now deceased, who married Ben Flack, of Indianapolis, and Anthony, who married Jennie Holwell and lives in Colorado.

To Henry M. and Sarah A. (Hermann) Redelman have been born six children, namely: George F., cashier of the bank at New Point, this county; Walter B., who owns a farm near Slabtown, one mile north of his father's home; Mae J., the wife of T. A. Woods, of St. Denis, Jennings county; Edward V., who is employed by the Sears-Roebuck Company, of Chicago, and Maurice H. and Arthur S., living at home. George F. Redelman married Lena Spitzmesser and they have one son, Norbert. Walter married Amelia Zaphe and they have one daughter, Edna. Mrs. May Woods has one child, Marjorie. Edward married Laura Ruberg. Mr. and Mrs. Redelman's children, several of whom now have homes of their own, are leading honorable and useful lives in the various communities in which they reside.

The success of Henry M. Redelman as a farmer and stock breeder has not been won without patience, toil and consistent diligent effort. He is a man of generous impulses, who takes a commendable interest in the welfare of his neighbors and who is a popular citizen of Marion township. There are no better citizens living in this county than Henry M. Redelman. Mr. and Mrs. Redelman are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Greensburg, active in all good works, and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Redelman is a Democrat and for years has taken a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county, ever having been an exponent in the best sense of that term.

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### JOHN GRAHAM EVANS.

In any review of the lives of those men and women who wrought largely and well in that portion of Decatur county comprised in Jackson township, the historian is compelled to give due weight to the influence exerted in the early period of the settlement of that section by the Evans and the Davis families. These families for many years have been prominent in all the good works of that community, few families thereabout having done more for the material and social advancement of that section than they. When, by the marriage in 1887, of John Graham Evans and Emma B. Davis, there was effected a happy union, all the neighbors joined in wishing the new home well, for the union was regarded universally among the friends of the young couple as one of the most fitting that could be brought about. As predicted by



JOHN G. EVANS.





all, the new home prospered and very properly became one of the social centers of that part of the county, the genial hospitality of the host and hostess and the engaging qualities of the children who presently came to bless that union, making the Evans home one of the most delightful in the county. This home was established in a fine, large farm residence which Mr. and Mrs. Evans caused to be erected on their Jackson township farm, one of the most substantial houses in the county; white and green, standing in the midst of a large, well-shaded lawn, with farm buildings of the most substantial character—an immense barn, painted yellow and white, with outbuildings to match. In the fall of 1914, the head of this pleasant family met his death as the result of an accident, Mr. Evans having died from injuries received in a fall from the haymow. His widow and those of his children who have not yet married and left the paternal roof, still occupy the Evans homestead and in their hearts is enshrined the memory of a kind and devoted husband, a loving and indulgent father.

The late John Graham Evans was born on the farm on which his whole life was spent, in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, on May 6, 1864, the son of William A. and Emily (Hice) Evans, and died at the same place on November 23, 1914. William A. Evans, who was born on November 3, 1835, and died on October 11, 1910, came to this county with his father, William Evans, from Hamilton county, on November 5, 1837. At that time a dense forest marred the site of the present beautiful Evans home in Jackson township, for it was there that William Evans settled. He cleared the forest and established a prosperous home and there his son, William A., was reared and in turn established his home there, to be succeeded by his son, the late John G. Evans.

On December 16, 1858, William A. Evans was united in marriage to Emily Hice, a member of one of the pioneer families of Decatur county, and to this union there were born three children, John Graham, the subject of this sketch; Milton E., a farmer of Jackson township, and Winston, deceased. Mrs. Evans died in June, 1898, and Mr. Evans married, secondly, February 19, 1901, Melissa Thompson, who died on April 20, 1908, and on July 8, 1909, he married Sarah Updike, who survives him. After his second marriage, Mr. Evans retired from the active duties of the farm and located in the village of Letts, this county, where his last days were spent. He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Williams, of Delhart, Texas, and Mrs. Martha Fraley, of Forest Hill, this county. Mr. Evans was a good man and a good farmer and had prospered largely. He was an active member of the Presbyterian

church and for many years was one of the most influential men in his part of the county.

John G. Evans was reared on the paternal farm, receiving his education in the local schools and grew up to be one of the most highly-respected young men in Jackson township. On March 28, 1877 he united with the Presbyterian church and on February 3, 1900, became a member of the Mt. Aerie Baptist church, becoming a trustee of that church in 1906 and ordained as a deacon in April, 1907. Mr. Evans cultivated his farm of two hundred and ninety acres in accordance with the latest discoveries in agricultural science, using the most modern appliances in the operation of the same. He took a deep interest in affairs outside the immediate range of the farm and was one of the most active men of affairs in that part of the county. He was a director in the First National Bank of Westport and of the State Bank at Letts, and also was interested in various other enterprises of an important character. The social side of his nature was one of Mr. Evans's most engaging qualities and he was one of the most popular men in that part of the county. He was a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Westport and of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Letts, taking a warm interest in the affairs of both these organizations, both of which passed earnest resolutions of respect and condolence upon his passing. No man in the county took a deeper interest in good government than did Mr. Evans, and he was looked upon as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in his township. In the fall of 1908 he was elected to the responsible and important position of township trustee for Jackson township and should have served for six years, his term being due to expire on January 1, 1915. He was performing excellent service in this office, when his untimely and lamented death cut short his useful tenure. As noted above, Mr. Evans farmed on a large scale and was very successful in his agricultural undertakings; he also was an extensive breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs.

On October 6, 1887, John Graham Evans was united in marriage to Emma B. Davis, who was born in Jackson township, this county, on November 13, 1864, the daughter of Aaron and Jane (Barrett) Davis, both natives of Franklin county, Indiana.

Aaron Davis was born on May 16, 1833, the son of James and Martha (Smathers) Davis, both natives of Kentucky. James Davis was the son of Matthias Davis, a native of Wales, of Welsh and Scottish parentage, who came to this country and was a soldier in the War of 1812. He married a Miss McClellan, a member of the same family from which Gen. George B. McClellan, of Civil War fame, sprang, and located in the Mt. Sterling neigh-

borhood of Kentucky, where James was born and reared. In 1830 Matthias Davis left Kentucky and came to Indiana, locating in Franklin county, from which point he moved to this county, settling in Salt Creek township, where his death occurred in 1840. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, Melinda, James, Joseph, Elizabeth, Isaac, Daniel, Allan, Ambrose, William and Mathias.

James Davis, who was born in 1798 and died in 1866, was married in Kentucky to Martha Smathers, a daughter of Hugh Smathers, a native of Ireland, who immigrated to America, took part in the Indian wars and in the War of 1812 and went to Kentucky, where he married and prospered. In 1830 he came to Indiana and ten years later emigrated to Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his life. Hugh Smathers was twice married, his second wife, who was a Miss Hopkins, having been the mother of three children, Hugh, Sabina and Benjamin. To the union of James Davis and Martha Smathers there were born ten children, namely: Mrs. Sarah Shelton, Harrison, a well-known resident of Clay township; Matthias, deceased; Mrs. Nancy Pavey, Mrs. Sabina Burkman; Aaron, father of Mrs. Evans; Mrs. Andocia Sharp; Mrs. Eliza Barnes; Martha and Elizabeth. The mother of these children died in 1866.

Aaron Davis was reared on the home farm in this county, receiving such educational advantages as the schools of his boyhood afforded, and at eighteen years of age began to work for himself as a farm hand. When twenty-one years old he married and settled on a small farm in Sand Creek township, which he sold and bought a farm in Clay township. Four years later he sold this farm and bought one hundred and sixty acres near the village of Letts, in Jackson township. Here he prospered and gradually added to his holdings until he was the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land, on which he erected a fine, large two-story brick house. In 1881 he and O. S. Mitchell built a grain elevator at Letts and for some time he was successfully engaged in this business, but in 1894 sold his interest to his partner and retired from active business. He was a Republican and took a warm interest in local politics, being one of the strongest factors in the promotion of the cause of good government in that part of the county.

On October 24, 1858, Aaron Davis was united in marriage to Jane Barrett, who was born in Franklin county, this state, October 10, 1837, the daughter of Charles and Mildred (Gentry) Barrett, natives of Virginia. Charles Barrett was a soldier in the War of 1812 and died in Franklin county in 1837. His wife was the daughter of Clairborn Gentry, a native of Vir-



ginia, and who came of an old Colonial family, who settled in Franklin county in 1837.

To Aaron and Jane (Barrett) Davis were born eight children, namely: John C., a former instructor in the United States army, in service in Cuba, now living in Montana; Albert, who lives in Idaho; Emma B., the widow of Mr. Evans; Mrs. John Shafer, who lives in Pierce, Colorado; Mrs. Ida M. Moore, who lives in Champaign, Illinois; Rev. Henry Davis, a minister of the Baptist church, who, on September 27, 1899, married Eva White and lives at Eugene, Oregon; Everett, who lives in the state of Washington, and Clifford C., who is operating the old home farm.

To John Graham and Emma B. (Davis) Evans were born six children, as follow: Mrs. Ethel Williams, of Letts, this county, who has a daughter, Ruth; Mrs. Hazel Gilmour, of Jackson township; Nelle, a teacher in the schools of Jackson township; Mildred, a student in the Newburg high school; Blanche, who is in the sixth year of her school work, and Russell, who is in the fifth grade of his school work.

Mrs. Evans is a member of the Mt. Airie Baptist church and is devoted to the good works of the same. Her influence is felt in many ways throughout that part of the county in which she lives.

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#### ALBERT LINK.

Agriculture has been an honored vocation from the earliest ages and, as a usual thing, men of honorable and humane impulses as well as of energy and thrift have been patrons of husbandry. The free outdoor life of the farm has a decided tendency to foster and develop that independence of mind and self-reliance which characterize true manhood. No greater blessing can befall a boy than to be reared in close touch with nature in the healthful, life-inspiring work of the fields. Albert Link is a prosperous and skillful young farmer of Clay township, who has always enjoyed the best advantages of farm life. At the present time he is farming one hundred and thirty-three acres of land of his own and an additional farm of ninety acres, altogether one of the finest tracts of land in the county. He has a magnificent home situated on a knoll, with a wide lawn and many shade trees. Two large yellow barns and other outbuildings in a splendid state of repair, make his home one of the most attractive in that section of the county. The farm

is owned jointly by Mr. Link and his father-in-law, John F. Templeton, who specialize in cattle, but plant forty acres of wheat and sixty acres of corn, yielding from seventy-five to eighty bushels to the acre.

Albert Link was born in Greensburg, this county, on January 29, 1891, the son of Henry and Elizabeth Ling, natives of Germany, the former of whom was born in 1854 and who came to America in 1880, settling in Greensburg, where he engaged in the meat business with Charles Zoller, Sr. He made a success of this business and retired a few years ago, now living in a fine home in the southeastern part of the city. Of the eight children born to Henry and Elizabeth Link, seven are living: Anna; Lizzie, who married Thomas Miller, of Clinton township; Cora, the wife of Roy Privett, of Greensburg; Albert, who is the subject of this sketch; Charles, a traveling salesman, living in Greensburg, and Lewis and George, who live on their father's farm on the outskirts of Greensburg. Albert Link was educated in the public schools of Greensburg, Indiana, and early in life took up the butcher business with his father, in which business he was engaged until his marriage.

In October, 1909, Albert Link was married to Lela May Templeton, daughter of John F. and Elizabeth (Pavy) Templeton, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1856, and who is the brother of Nelson M. Templeton, whose biographical sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume, gives the history of the Templeton family. Mr. Templeton lived on the farm for twenty years and today is considered an able and wealthy farmer. In 1915 he enjoyed a trip to the Pacific coast, attending the Panama-Pacific exposition. Mrs. John F. Templeton's family history is presented in the biographical sketch of her father on another page of this volume. Mrs. Albert Link was born on the Templeton homestead, the only child born to her parents. She and her husband have two children, John Henry and Mary Elizabeth.

Albert Link has a herd of twenty-seven thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, including twenty-two cows, a source of considerable profit. The Link home is situated some distance from the main road and is surrounded by a large lawn, shaded by two rows of fine ever green trees. The approach to the house and lawn consists of a beautiful graveled driveway, leading from the Columbus and Greensburg pike. Large maple and locust trees furnish additional shade and the house is flanked by an orchard on the west. The land, which is level, consists of a rich loam.

Intelligent and keen, Albert Link is one of the leading young farmers

of Clay township. Mr. and Mrs. Link are members of the Baptist church. He is identified with the Republican party and the Loyal Order of Moose. Mr. Templeton is also a Republican and he and his wife are also members of the Baptist church.

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### JOSEPH S. MINOR.

Joseph S. Minor, farmer and railroad man, enjoys the distinction of owning and living in perhaps the finest residence in Burney, which is second only to Greensburg in importance as a city of this county. Mr. Minor owns a farm of one hundred acres, part of which lies at the north edge of Burney, and consists of the very best land to be found in Clay township.

Joseph S. Minor was born at Hartsville, in Bartholomew county, Indiana, in 1873, and is the son of John and Mary E. (Burney) Minor, the latter of whom was a native of Decatur county, whose father and mother also were natives of this county. John Minor was a native of New Jersey, who came to Bartholomew county when a young man and settled on a farm near Hartsville. After his marriage to Mary E. Burney, they began life on the farm. At the age of forty years John Minor passed away suddenly, leaving a widow and a family of eight children, of whom Joseph S., the subject of this sketch, was next to the youngest. At the time of his death, John Minor left one hundred and twenty acres of land, rather heavily mortgaged. Mrs. Minor traded this tract in Bartholomew county for one hundred and twenty acres where the town of Burney now stands. This was a master stroke, netting Mrs. Minor a large profit. She was a woman of great business ability and native shrewdness, who not only kept what her husband left, but paid off the indebtedness. As her children became of age she bought and paid for the inherited interest of each of the eight children.

After trading for the Clay township farm, Mrs. Mary E. Minor was married, in 1880, to Harrison Davis, and at his death, about eighteen years later, she also purchased the interest of his heirs, who numbered five. She was a member of the Baptist church. Educated in the common schools of Decatur county, Indiana, by extensive home study she kept herself well informed on current topics, and was a subscriber to the best newspapers, periodicals and farm papers. She always displayed an intelligent interest in politics and was able to discuss political affairs as few women of this county. Mrs. Minor died in 1913, at the advanced age of seventy years, retaining her

wonderful mental faculties to the last. She was the mother of eight children, namely: James, who lives in the West; Mrs. Jennie Hansell, deceased; Milton, who lives in Burney, this county; Mrs. Minerva Cummins, a resident of Hartsville; William B., who lives south of Burney; Taylor, a resident of Richmond, Indiana; Joseph S., the subject of this sketch, and Esta, who died when a child.

At the age of nineteen years Joseph S. Minor left home to study telegraphy and railroad work. For a year he was clerk in a general store in Burney. At the age of twenty-one he was married to Fannie Pumphrey, daughter of William Pumphrey, Sr., whose family history is contained elsewhere in this volume. For twenty years Mr. Minor has been the railroad agent at Burney.

Joseph S. Minor is a Progressive in politics and is one of the substantial citizens of Clay township. He is recognized as a man who is alert to every possibility of making money and aside from his railroad work and agricultural interests owns a considerable amount of gilt-edge stocks. Practically everything he has today he has made himself, though no doubt he inherited his mother's keen business ability. Mrs. Minor is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She and her husband believe in getting all out of life that is possible. They have an automobile and enjoy practically all of the luxuries and conveniences available to people of this section.

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### JOSIAH WARREN ROBERTSON.

Josiah Warren Robertson, a general farmer and stockman of Adams township, this county, belongs to an old family of Decatur county, his father having come here about 1829, during his day and generation having become one of the most prosperous farmers in this section of Indiana. It is a matter of no small personal pride to have lived all of one's life in the township and county of one's birth. Men, who are so fortunate as to have enjoyed a large success in the community of their birth, are entitled to the respect and confidence of their neighbors and this is a distinction which Josiah Warren Robertson enjoys in a high degree.

Born on April 29, 1854, in Adams township, Josiah Warren Robertson was reared in that township. The old homestead is within sight of his present home and is located on the adjoining farm. His parents, Oliver P. and Mary A. (Davis) Robertson, were early settlers in Adams township, the



former having been born in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn county, Indiana, on August 1, 1825, the son of John and Ruth (Ridlen) Robertson, natives of Maryland and early settlers in Dearborn county. After coming to Adams township in 1829, the family became very prosperous, and there, for nearly a century, the Robertson family has been recognized as one of the leading factors in the agricultural life of the community. Mary A. Davis, the second wife of Oliver P. Robertson, was born on June 15, 1833, the daughter of John W. and Sarah (Forsythe) Davis, natives of New Jersey, who came to Decatur county about 1830, settling in Adams township. Mrs. Mary A. Robertson died on May 25, 1907. She was the mother of seven children, all of whom are living, namely: Josiah W., the subject of this sketch; J. Frank and Will, both of whom live in Adams township; Charles, who lives at Acton, in Marion county, this state; Edward, who lives in Adams township; Lydia, who is the wife of Elmer Shellhorn, and Ruth, who is housekeeper for her two brothers, Josiah W. and Edward.

Oliver P. Robertson was first married to Nancy Edrington, who was born in 1831 and who died in June, 1852. She was the daughter of Hiram and Rhoda Edrington, natives of Kentucky and pioneer settlers in Adams township. After coming to this township, they cleared the land, built a log house and later erected a large brick house, now owned by E. Shellhorn. Oliver P. and Nancy Robertson had two children, Louisa L., who is deceased, and Lafayette, a farmer of Adams township, this county. At the time of his death, in 1907, Oliver P. Robertson owned one hundred and sixty acres of land, which is now known as the old Robertson homestead and which is owned jointly by his daughters, Lydia and Ruth. Josiah W. Robertson has lived in his present home since 1901, moving to this farm from the old home place.

Mr. Robertson is a Progressive in politics, but has never taken an active interest in political matters. He is a man of generous and humane impulses and is popular in his neighborhood because of his many good works, his cordial relations with the citizens of his home township and his upright, honorable dealings with the public. He lives in a large brick house situated on his farm of three hundred and six acres and is engaged in general farming and stock raising. He is one of the most extensive stockmen of this township, his annual output of the farm being two carloads of hogs and two carloads of cattle. Mr. Robertson is accustomed to buy live stock for feeding purposes in the city market and, after they are fed out on the farm, are sold to the packing houses in the city.

## REV. JAMES WESLEY TURNER, A. M., D. D.

Not too often can be repeated the life story of one who has lived so honorable and useful a life and attained to such notable distinction as has the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch; one of the most successful and distinguished ministers of the Methodist Episcopal church in the state of Indiana. His character has been one of signal exaltation and purity of purpose. Well disciplined in mind, maintaining a vantage point from which life has presented itself in correct proportion; guided and guarded by the most inviolable principles of integrity and honor, such a man could not prove other than a force for good in whatever relation of life he may have been placed. His character is the positive expression of a strong nature and his strength is as the number of his days. His career has been a long, busy and useful one, and his name is honored by all who have had occasion to come in contact with him on life's pathway. Doctor Turner has dignified and honored his profession by his able and self-abnegating services through long years of earnest and indefatigable effort in a noble cause. His life has been one of concentration to his calling and well does he merit a place of honor in this history touching upon the lives and deeds of those who have given the best of their power and talent for the aiding and betterment of their kind in this county.

James Wesley Turner was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, on August 11, 1857, the son of Rev. Isaac and Alice (Kenyon) Turner, to whom but two children were born, the other having been Alice, the wife of Rev. M. A. Farr, who died at Shelbyville, this state. Rev. Isaac Turner was born in England in 1830, and was educated in his native country. Studying for the ministry, he became identified with the Wesleyan Methodist church, in which he attained considerable prominence as a preacher. In 1854 he came to America and located in Dearborn county, where he continued his ministerial labors. He preached throughout southern Indiana, his circuit being a very large one, embracing the territory from Brookville to Napoleon. In that early day traveling facilities were very poor in this section of the state, and Isaac Turner made most of his journeys on horseback. He lived for many years at Smyrna, this county, where he presided over a large circuit, but in later years located in North Madison, where his death occurred in 1905. As one of the pioneer preachers of his section of the state he exerted a large and beneficent influence on the side of morality and higher living, and his name is revered by many who knew him in his active years. His wife, Alice Kenyon, also a native of England, was a member of the Kenyon family noted

for its scholarly attainments. Her father, James Kenyon, was a man of much learning and served for many years as a tutor in families of the nobility.

James Wesley Turner received his elementary education in the common schools, and then became a student in Moore's Hill College, where he received the degree of Master of Arts in 1880. Subsequently, in 1905, his alma mater conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. Rev. J. W. Turner entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church in 1877, his first charge being that of the Arlington circuit, which he filled for a short time. Entering then upon the regular itinerary, he was first appointed to the Milroy circuit, later serving one year at Laurel, three years at Irvington, a suburb of Indianapolis, three years at Edinburg, four years at Madison, and then was transferred to the Trinity church at Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained five years. From Louisville he went to the Trinity church at Evansville, Indiana, and four years later was appointed presiding elder of the Evansville district, in which position he served with eminent ability and success for five years. During the following two years he accepted nominal appointments and at the end of that period accepted the pastorate of Rushville church, where he remained for two years. Because of failing health, Reverend Turner felt the necessity of withdrawing from active labors for a time, and, locating in Clinton township, this county, he is living there with his family on a farm of two hundred and sixty-seven acres, comprising their present estate. There Mr. Turner built a splendid house, beautifully located on a hill commanding a magnificent view of the surrounding country, and there he is spending his days in quiet enjoyment of the fine library which he owns, valued at about nine thousand dollars and considered one of the best private collections of books in the state of Indiana. A special room was built in the house for the care of these books. Mr. Turner's farm comprises a magnificent tract of land which is in a high state of cultivation and which is operated by his sons, Harry D. and James W., Jr. The place is well improved and is numbered among the most productive farms in the locality.

Doctor Turner has been a life-long Republican and has given earnest heed to the welfare of his community in the casting of his ballot. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, belonging to the commandery of the Knights Templar at Evansville. A well-educated man, broad-minded and liberal in his thought and attitude toward the great questions of the day, Mr. Turner has long been recognized as a man of superior qualifications and attainments and for a number of years has been a popular lecturer, among his lectures being the following: "Three Indices of the

Infinite," "True Intelligence and its Practical Manifestations," "Wasted Forces," and "Philosophy and Christianity."

On July 29, 1880, Rev. James Wesley Turner was united in marriage to Lizzie Woodfill, who was born in Greensburg, the daughter of William S. and Sarah (Talbot) Woodfill, who were for years among the most prominent residents and influential citizens of Decatur county, Mrs. Turner's Grandmother Hendricks having been given the privilege of naming the town of Greensburg. W. S. Woodfill was born in Owen county, Kentucky, November 16, 1825, the son of Gabriel and Eleanor (Pullam) Woodfill, of Welsh and English extraction, respectively. The Woodfill family was established in Pennsylvania in early colonial days. Rev. Gabriel Woodfill, the great-grandfather of William S., emigrated from Pennsylvania to Kentucky in an early day in the settlement of the latter state, locating in Shelby county, thence moving to Jefferson county, Indiana, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a minister of the Gospel, a pioneer in the Methodism of Kentucky and Indiana, and a man of large influence. His son, Andrew, the grandfather of William S. Woodfill, was born in Pennsylvania, but spent most of his life in the neighborhood of Madison, Indiana. He married a Mitchell, and to that union were born twelve children, among whom was Gabriel, the father of William S. William S. Woodfill was educated in the schools of Greensburg, and in 1825 became a partner with his father in a general store at Greensburg. In January, 1863, the father retired from active business, and William took into the firm two brothers, John and James, the business being conducted under the firm name of Woodfill Brothers. Various changes later were made in the copartnership, and the firm was conducted under various names, but always by a member of the family, being now under the individual management of W. W. Woodfill. In 1875 William S. Woodfill organized the Greensburg Gas and Electric Company, of which he was president at the time of his death. He also owned various commercial and industrial interests and four valuable farms in this county. He was a faithful Methodist in his religion, and an earnest Republican in his political views, while his fraternal membership was with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. To him and his wife were born four children, namely: Lizzie, wife of the subject of this sketch; William Wirt, a Greensburg merchant; Harry Talbot, superintendent of the Greensburg gas and electric plant, and Web. The mother of these children died on October 31, 1898.

To Rev. J. W. and Lizzie (Woodfill) Turner have been born the following children: Rollin A., an attorney in Greensburg; Sarah, wife of Lewis Uhl, a pottery manufacturer in Huntingburg, Indiana, and who has



three children, Alice, Robert and Hannah; Lieut. William W., U. S. N., a graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, now a professor of electricity in the academy; Harry D. and James W., successful farmers; Rachel K., a graduate of the Greensburg high school of the class of 1915, and Web W., who is attending the Sandusky centralized school.

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### HENRY MOZINGO.

Perhaps the best-known citizen of Clinton township, this county, is Henry Mazingo, who for many years has been one of the leading corn growers in the state of Indiana, and who in the township of his residence has been prominent politically, having been elected as trustee on the Progressive ticket in the fall of 1914. Mr. Mazingo, by careful attention to the details of farming, has reduced it almost to an exact science and has gained prominence as a corn grower and stockman. He is accustomed to sell annually about three hundred bushels of seed corn, though in 1915 he sold five hundred bushels, for which he received two dollars and a half a bushel. In these times, when fifty bushels to the acre is an exceptional yield in this state, Mr. Mazingo's success is apparent by contrast; since he grows more than ninety bushels to the acre on a part of his land, and last year had one hundred and twenty acres of corn which averaged seventy-five bushels to the acre. He makes a specialty of Reed's yellow Dent, and Johnson county white corn, having taken many prizes on the product of his farm. He took the fourth and sixth prizes in the state corn show; fourth prize on ten ears of yellow corn, and sixth on one ear of yellow. He also took sixth prize on ten ears of white in the same show. At the Clarksburg corn show he took four first prizes, and his son, Arthur, took second on ten ears of white, and on a single ear, ten ears mixed, and second sweepstakes. Mr. Mazingo himself won the sweepstakes at Clarksburg and at the Greensburg corn show, Arthur won sweepstakes and a silver cup, winning a trip to Purdue University in 1912 as a result of his splendid showing in the corn show. Mr. Mazingo's daughter, Grace, is a noted breeder of White Wyandottes, keeping about one hundred and fifty pure-bred chickens, and when she exhibited at Greensburg won first, second and third on cockerels; first and second on pullets; first, second and third on hens, and first on pens.

Henry Mazingo was born on a farm four miles south of Greensburg on December 25, 1871, the son of James and Lydia (Caseldine) Mazingo,

natives of Decatur county, the former of whom was born in 1841, and died in May, 1913, and the latter of whom was born in 1853. James Mozingo was the son of Henry Mozingo; a native of Kentucky, who walked from Kentucky to Indiana in 1832 and entered land in Marion township, this county, where he built a log cabin. Later he returned to his native state and bought back with him his mother and the family. His mother lived to be one hundred and four years old. The older Henry Mozingo, who was born in 1809, died in 1888. He was a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln, and an ardent member of the Republican party. His wife, Elizabeth Mozingo, died in 1905. Of their twelve children, only five are living, Mrs. Mary Riley and Mrs. Eliza Clemons, of Greensburg; Mrs. Nancy Tremain, of Columbia, Missouri; Mrs. Belle Marlow, of Missouri, and Mrs. Edna Beagle, of near Westport, this county.

James Mozingo, the father of Henry Mozingo, resided for a long time on the farm entered by his father, but in 1888 purchased a farm in Marion township, on which he spent the rest of his life. He was a progressive Republican in politics and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. All of the nine children born to James and Lydia (Caseldine) Mozingo are living. In the order of their birth they are as follow: Henry, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Minnie Skinner, who lives near the Mt. Pleasant church; Mrs. Carrie Tumilty, who lives near Greensburg; Ed, who lives near Mt. Pleasant; Everett and May (twins), both of whom live on the home place; Mrs. Nona Cheek, who lives at Harris City; Mrs. Bessie Stoneking, of Osgood, and Clarence, who lives at home. May and Everett, twins. Mrs. James Mozingo is still living at her home on the old farm.

Educated in the Hazelrigg district school, where he received only a limited education, Henry Mozingo was able to supplement the education he received at that time by assistance from his good wife, now deceased, who was a teacher for five years in Jennings and Decatur counties. On February 28, 1900, Henry Mozingo was married to Ada Holcomb, a well-known teacher in the public schools of Decatur county, who was born on a farm four miles east of Westport, the daughter of D. W. and Mary Halcomb, old residents of Decatur county. To that union six children were born, Grace, Arthur, Vernon, Ernest, Frank and Helen. The mother of these children died on December 20, 1914.

A Progressive in politics, and an ardent admirer of Colonel Roosevelt and former Senator Beveridge, Mr. Mozingo was elected township trustee on the Progressive ticket in the fall of 1914, succeeding Ed Meek to that

office. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Free and Accepted Masons, and the Knights of Pythias and has filled all of the chairs in the Odd Fellows lodge. Mr. Mozingo is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was his wife, and their children have been reared in that faith.

Not the least of Henry Mozingo's achievements is the breeding of fine hogs, cattle, horses and mules on his farm of three hundred and seventy-five acres in Clinton township. While his fame as a farmer may be attributed to his success with corn, ordinarily he keeps one hundred head of cattle, and more than that many hogs on the farm. He also has at the present time eighty-two head of horses and mules, and always keeps from fifty to seventy-five head. The extensive scale upon which Mr. Mozingo carries on farming in this county clearly entitles him to foremost rank as a scientific farmer.

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#### HENRY A. DRAPING.

Henry A. Draping, now a well-known and prominent farmer of Marion township, this county, was born on December 21, 1873, in that township in a log and frame house built by his father a few years before, a son of William and Mary (Tresler) Draping, and he and his brother George are operating two hundred acres of land in Marion township, doing general farming. Their land is fairly level and well-tiled. The place has been improved with a comfortable white house of seven rooms, a good barn forty-eight by seventy feet, tool and carriage sheds, etc. They feed about forty head of hogs annually. In addition to his farming interests, Henry Draping also has operated a threshing-machine, in season, for the past twenty-two years and a corn-shredder for the past sixteen years. His brother, George Draping, also operates a saw-mill and does commercial sawing, his three sons assisting him in that work.

William Draping, father of the subject of this sketch, was born on June 3, 1838, and died on April 20, 1911. His wife, Mary Tresler, was born on January 28, 1849, and died on March 26, 1902. William Draping was born in Germany and came to America about 1865, settling in Marion township, this county, where he eventually bought the place now owned by his sons. At the time of purchase, the place was all in woods, and with the assistance of his sons, it was soon put in a tillable condition. Before marriage, Mr. Draping worked at various points, following the trades of stave-

maker and cooper. To this couple were born seven children, Frank W., Regina, Henry, George, Albert, Frederick and Lizzie. Frank W. is a farmer in Marion township. Regina died when six years of age. George was born on July 16, 1876. He and his brother, Henry, have been in charge of the home farm about twelve years. Albert and Frederick are dead. Lizzie married a Mr. Fonseth, of Marion township, and died on May 30, 1912.

William Draping's father was born in Germany and at the age of fourteen came to America, landing at New Orleans, going to Cincinnati. He learned both the cooper and tailor trades, and once operated a tailor shop in Cincinnati, in partnership with his brother, August. In 1861, he moved to Ripley county, Indiana, and on March 26, 1868, came to Decatur county and went to farming. His wife was Mary Anna Trisler.

In March, 1904, Henry Draping was united in marriage to Clara Oetjen, of Napoleon, Indiana, who was born on October 12, 1882, in Napoleon, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Brandt) Oetjen, natives of Hanover, Germany and Napoleon, respectively. The former, a tailor by trade, who came to America at the age of fourteen years, died in 1895. To Henry and Clara (Oetjen) Draping have been born four children, namely: Alvena, born on April 6, 1905; Walter, December 15, 1907; Elmer, January 16, 1911, and Herbert, February 9, 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. Draping are members of the Lutheran church and their children are being reared in that faith. Mr. Draping is a Democrat and takes a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county, and is one of the best-known men in that part of the county. He served as one of the jurymen in the celebrated Beogle murder trial.

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#### ALEXANDER HILLIS.

It cannot be urged too strongly upon those who read the biographies of those who have passed on, the importance of securing from the older members of the present generation, as well as from the few still left of the preceding generation, their store of ancestral knowledge, before death comes to claim his own, after which much interesting and valuable data inevitably will remain a sealed book. Persons who take pride in their ancestral records ought not to permit present opportunities to be neglected, and the lessons on genealogy presented in this volume ought not to be overlooked.

The late Alexander Hillis, a one time well-known farmer of Marion



township, this county, was born on August 2, 1831, a son of John and Ann (Hazelrigg) Hillis. He died on June 15, 1910, at the old Hillis home, south of Greensburg, where he owned one hundred and twenty acres of land. He was an industrious, energetic man, and a kind husband and father.

John Hillis was a native of Kentucky. His wife, Ann, who was born on May 23, 1811, was a daughter of Alese and Kitty Hazelrigg. The Hillis family came to Decatur county in 1830, in which year John Hillis entered a tract of land, where the Hillis home now stands. He was a very intelligent and able man and traded and bought until he had a fine farm of over four hundred acres, becoming a wealthy man in an honest, straightforward way. John and Ann Hillis were the parents of eight children, namely: Alexander, the subject of this sketch; Martha Ann, now deceased, who married Marcellus Wright; Sarah Catherine, born on February 2, 1837, now deceased, who married William Carper; Mrs. Margaret Jane Foley, a widow, living at Greensburg, this county; William Wallace, born on January 27, 1840, who died at the age of ten years; Sophronia, born in 1848, died at the age of nineteen years; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Christy, now deceased, born on March 15, 1845, and Mrs. Nancy Miranda Cobb, January 18, 1848.

Alexander Hillis was married to Elizabeth McCullough, who was born on February 22, 1832, in Ripley county, a daughter of William and Drusilla (Morgan) McCullough, of Kentucky. Drusilla Morgan was born at Morgan's Station, Kentucky, a daughter of John Morgan, founder of Morgan's Station. The McCulloughs came to Decatur county in 1833 and later in that year settled in Ripley county, where William McCullough opened a country store. He spent the rest of his life there and was buried at Cross Plains.

To Alexander and Elizabeth (McCullough) Hillis were born the following children: Morgan A., born in 1854, was accidentally killed in 1898; John W., February 12, 1858, died on August 19, 1884; Frank O., April 20, 1866, who lives in Milroy, where he operates a machine shop, married Flora Doles and has three children, Loren, Elizabeth and Thomas; Lizzie, November 27, 1866, is now deceased; Clara, a skilled music teacher, who was educated in the Conservatory of Music at Indianapolis, has large classes at Milroy and Westport, and Hetty, who lives at home.

Mr. Hillis was a devoted and consistent member of the Christian church, as is his widow, and their children were reared in that faith, growing up to be useful members of the community. Mr. Hillis was a Republican and ever gave his attention to all matters of good government. He was a good citizen and a generous neighbor, being held in the highest regard throughout the community in which he so long had made his home, and was sincerely mourned by many at his passing.

## JEPHTHA LAYTON.

The late Jephtha Layton, of Marion township, was well known during his life time in Decatur county; first, because he lived in this county all of his life, or practically so, and second, because, for many years, he was engaged in operating a saw-mill at Slabtown, in Marion township, where he did an extensive business in lumber and from which he furnished a great deal of the lumber for the building of Greensburg. Moreover, he became an expert judge of timber and, as a result of his extensive dealings, became quite wealthy, accumulating a great deal of land and other property. He was a man who devoted himself closely to his own personal business and whose relations with the public were based upon the most rigid code of honorable and upright dealings.

Jephtha Layton was born in Kentucky on July 25, 1823, and died near Madison, Indiana, on August 1, 1891. He was the son of John and Mary Layton, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was of English parentage. About 1830 John Layton came to Decatur county and here settled on a farm south of Greensburg, which is now owned by Green B. Barnes. At that time Jephtha Layton was only seven years old. He continued to live at home with his parents, assisting his father in the work on the farm, until his marriage in 1852 to Susan McLaughlin, who was born on October 20, 1827, and who, left an orphan at a tender age, was reared by friends of her parents' family. She died on August 7, 1890, a little less than one year before the death of her husband, the subject of this sketch.

In 1855 Jephtha Layton formed a partnership with his brother, James, and they established the old Layton mill at Slabtown, on the Greensburg & Layton's Mill turnpike, where they did an extensive business in hard lumber and especially in the manufacture of shingles, the mill being a lumber station for a large expanse of territory. After the death of his father, in 1891, Frank Layton took up the work of this mill and is still continuing its operation. In 1880 Jephtha Layton erected a large brick house, manufacturing his own brick, on the farm. Jephtha and James Layton built this house. John and Cyrus Layton were associated with their brothers for some time, but they died soon after the venture was started. In 1870 Jephtha and James Layton dissolved partnership.

To Jephtha and Susan (McLaughlin) Layton were born six children, namely: Avarilla, who married Obadiah Martin, of Marion township, lives on part of the old farm and has two children, Zola, a teacher in the public

schools of Marion township, and Ottis, a farmer; Nancy Ann, who died at the age of sixteen years; Mary, who is at home; Frank, who is a farmer, well-driller and saw-mill operator of Marion township; John, who died in the West, and Florence, who also is at home. Florence and Mary own one hundred acres of land, which their brother, Frank, for the most part cultivates, but part of the land is rented out to others.

As above stated, Jephtha Layton died in 1891. Five years later his brother, James, with whom he had been associated for many years in business, died in the large frame house which he had built in Slabtown, in 1896. Jephtha and James Layton were among the younger children of a large family born to John and Mary Layton. The others were: Mrs. Emily Fletcher, Allen, John and Mrs. Mary Downey (twins), Mrs. Harriett McConnell, Mrs. Matilda Ransted, Mrs. Betsy Bonderant, John and Cyrus.

As men who did real constructive work in the material development and upbuilding of Decatur county, it would be difficult to find anyone who would pass the Layton brothers. It might be said with some truth that, had they not operated a saw-mill in that part of the county, some one else would have done so. Nevertheless, the fact remains that they possessed the foresight to erect a mill and that their estimates of the commercial possibilities of such an enterprise were pre-eminently correct. The Layton family will go down in the history of this county as one which contributed very largely to its material advancement.

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### JAMES CLINE.

James Cline, one of the prominent leaders in the councils of the Democratic party in Decatur county, and the present assessor of the county, is a well-known farmer of Marion township, born on March 1, 1864, in that township, and the son of Francis and Catherine (McCormack) Cline, both natives of Ireland, the former of whom was born in 1816, and died in 1891, and the latter of whom was born on September 8, 1823, and died on May 7, 1915, past the age of ninety-one, the oldest woman in Decatur county. She came to America from her native country when a girl with relatives, and was married in New York City to Francis Cline. Her husband, a native of Ireland, came alone to America when a lad and after working in New York City for a time moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, from which place he emigrated during the fifties to Decatur county, purchasing a farm of forty acres in Marion township.

Although James Cline was born in a pioneer log cabin, his father subsequently built another house, and it was there that he was reared. Fishing and hunting were good in those days, and the life of a country lad offered more wholesome if not greater diversion than it does today. James Cline was one of three children born to his parents. The other two, who were elder, were Mrs. Katie Smith, of Napoleon, Ripley county, whose husband is cashier of the Napoleon bank, and Anna, a member of the Sisters of Charity, who died in 1909.

Educated in the common schools of Marion township, and in the normal at New Marion, James Cline taught school for twenty-two years and six months, beginning at the age of twenty-two years, and performing all of this service in Marion township. In the meantime he purchased a farm in Marion township, and, after improving it, sold it in 1898 and removed to Greensburg, where he began the study of law. Finding the law distasteful, he returned to the farm in 1900, having purchased his present farm of eighty acres at Slabtown, in Marion township. This farm was badly run down, but Mr. Cline has since erected a fine house and other buildings and has the farm well fenced and well drained. It is regarded as one of the best country homes on the Michigan road, and is located six miles southeast of Greensburg, and six miles from Napoleon.

Interested in politics from the time of his boyhood, Mr. Cline served on the Democratic county central committee and as township committeeman for Marion township. He has also attended several Democratic state conventions, and is well acquainted with the Democratic leaders in the state of Indiana. In the fall of 1914, having received the nomination for county assessor, he was triumphantly elected to a four-year term, and is now serving in this office.

On April 27, 1893, James Cline was married to Margaret Foley, who was born in Salt Creek township in June, 1865, daughter of Michael Foley, and who died on February 20, 1898. To this union three children were born, one of whom died in infancy. The two living children are Mary, who is her father's housekeeper, and Anna, who was graduated from the Academy of the Immaculate Conception at Oldenburg, Indiana, on June 17, 1915, having completed a four-years' course.

A member of the Greensburg Catholic church, James Cline is also a charter member of the Knights of Columbus at Greensburg, and has been prominent in that organization since the Greensburg lodge was instituted. The deep and active interest which Mr. Cline has always taken in the councils of the Democratic party in Decatur county has not prevented him from look-



ing carefully after the interests of his home, his family and his farm. Without any qualifications or modifications, it must be conceded that he has performed every duty which devolves upon a citizen of this great country. Loyal to his home, his neighborhood, his county and to his state, he has a host of friends, men who are attached to him by the warmest ties of personal relation, and who hold him in the highest regard.

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### JOSEPH MOENKEDICK.

Like many others of Ohio's sons and daughters who have adopted Indiana as their permanent home, the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch has been loyal to the home of his adoption, and well may he feel satisfied with his success in producing on his farm in this county the best that nature wills. His splendid acres, his fine family of children, and his remunerative crops, all contribute toward making him a satisfied man. Mr. Moenkedick has won the respect and confidence of the citizens of Marion township, and has trained his children along the same lines.

Joseph Moenkedick was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 11, 1859, a son of Henry and Catharine Moenkedick. Henry Moenkedick was born in Germany in 1818, and came to America in 1857, settling in Decatur county, where he bought a farm in 1865. He lived in a log cabin, which is still standing, and where his son Joseph, the subject of this sketch, spent his childhood. Henry Moenkedick, in old age, moved to Millhousen, where his last days were spent, his death occurring in 1890. By his first wife, he had two children, Mrs. Theresa Herbert, of Ripley county, Indiana, and Joseph. Henry Moenkedick's second wife was a widow, Mrs. Moller, to which union there was no issue.

At the age of fourteen years Joseph Moenkedick started in to earn his living, receiving at first but five dollars a month, which wage gradually was increased until he was receiving twenty dollars a month, and eventually he earned enough to pay one thousand six hundred dollars down on a farm costing him three thousand two hundred dollars, the balance to be paid in eight years. He now has a well-improved farm, on which he has spent about nine thousand dollars in improvements. Mr. Moenkedick's farm covers one hundred and twenty acres of very productive, level land, located a quarter of a mile from the pike road, on which he has a substantial brick dwelling. He raises from fifteen to eighteen head of cattle and from twenty-five to forty hogs annually.

On April 19, 1893, Joseph Moenkedick was united in marriage to Anna May Hessler, who was born on August 26, 1866, at Millhousen, this county, a daughter of Adam J. and Katharine (Stahl) Hessler, to which union the following children have been born: Theresa, Louis, Catharine, Henry, William and Joseph, all of whom are at home save Catherine, who is living in Greensburg. Mrs. Moenkedick's father, Adam J. Hessler, was born in 1840, and died in March, 1903. He was a native of Millhousen, a son of John Hessler, and his wife was a native of Germany. Adam J. Hessler was a farmer all his life. His father, John Hessler, a native of Germany, was the first shoemaker in Millhousen. Mr. and Mrs. Moenkedick are members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Greensburg and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Moenkedick is a Republican and is warmly interested in the county's political affairs, being an earnest supporter of all measures designed to advance the public welfare.

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#### WILLARD A. MIERS.

Few men living in Decatur county are better known than Willard A. Miers, a prominent farmer and stockman, living a quarter of a mile south of Burney, in Clay township, on a farm consisting of two hundred and fifty-seven acres of level land and of first-class soil. He is known to the world of harness horsemen as the man who bred and trained "Little Snapp," which at three years old held the world's record for geldings.

Willard A. Miers was born on the old homestead, which he now owns, in 1858, the son of Thomas S. and Mahala (Braden) Miers. Thomas S. Miers was born in Ohio, and came to Decatur county when seven or eight years old with his father, Thomas Miers, who was one of the early settlers of Decatur county, and who died a short time after settling in Clay township. Thomas S. Miers was one of the most successful farmers of Decatur county, having accumulated at the time of his death six hundred acres of land. Most of his money he made out of hogs and corn.

Willard A. Miers started life for himself when about twenty-one years old. He has been a very successful farmer and stockman, and especially successful with horses and mules. He bred and trained "Little Snapp," which at three years old held the world's record for geldings of that age and continued to hold the record for three successive years. Mr. Miers has bred and raised several other horses, which while not holding world's records, nevertheless have distinguished themselves for speed. He is still actively engaged

in operating his farm and is still as enthusiastic as a youngster in regard to his horses. He trains and educates his own animals. He has now a four-year-old filly in whose veins runs the blood of Allen Winters, and Allen Winters won the fifty-thousand-dollar Derby, which to horse lovers is the big event of the grand circuit. He is a true lover of the sport of kings and never intends to give it up, declaring the chances for him are too good to quit. He is one of the well-to-do farmers of Decatur county, but his heart is in and with his horses.

Mr. Miers laso handles jacks, mules, cattle and hogs. He has been handling jacks ever since he started in business, and all of his animals were bred and raised by himself. His two oldest jacks are two of the best-boned and largest animals in the middle West. His fes are one-third greater than the average fee, yet, despite this, he enjoys a large patronage. He also has six jennets and breeds and sells these animals for the market. He raises three or four jacks every year, and these animals bring on an average from twelve hundred to fifteen hundred dollars per head. It can readily be seen that some of the profits of the farm come from the jacks, jennets and mules. Jennets irdinarily bring from five hundred to eight hundred dollars. Not every man who has engaged in this business has made a success of it, but Mr. Miers is one of those men who has succeeded in a large mesaure. He employs two men the year round and several additional men during the busy season.

In 1895 Willard A. Miers was married to Lilly Johnson, the daughter of John and Sally (Jones) Johnson, members of an old family in Decatur county, now living retired at Burney, Indiana. To this union three children have been born, Braden Johnson, Bessie and Alice Nevada. Mr. and Mrs. Miers are members of the Methodist church at Burney and their children have been reared in that faith. The Miers home is situated in Burney on twenty acres of land at the south edge of town. The stock farm and race track are situated about a quarter of a mile south of town. Mr. Miers is devoted to his business and personally attends to all the details of managing every department of the farm.

Mr. Miers is a Democrat, although not greatly interested in politics. For many years he has been a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford. He is possessed naturally of a genial disposition, which has been no small factor in his large success. Ten years of his life were spent in Greensburg, and Mr. Miers is quite as well known there as he is in Clay township. There is an old saying that every man has his own trade. The truth of this saying is generally accepted, and, assuming that it is correct, no one will doubt that Willard A. Miers has found the business of life not only that which he likes best, but the one in which he could have been most successful.

## WATSON BOSTIC.

A veteran of the Civil War, who enlisted in the service of his country when a lad of seventeen years, enduring many hardships and privations, Watson Bostic, a successful farmer of Clay township, this county, and for twenty years the local representative of the Continental Fire Insurance Company of New York, was born in 1847, the son of Mathias and Elizabeth (Jones) Bostic, the former of whom was a native of Ohio, and the latter of Maryland. Mathias Bostic was an early settler of Dearborn county, Indiana, one of four brothers, who, with their sister, came from Ohio to this state. The Bostics were also identified with the early history and settlement and development of Decatur county, having come here from Dearborn county in October, 1860. Mathias Bostic died about 1858 in Dearborn county, and after his death his widow married a man of the name of Fowler, and they came to Decatur county in 1860. Mr. Bostic's mother died near Milford. By her first marriage she had three children; Watson, the subject of this sketch; Richmond B., who died in 1891, and Mrs. Serinda Elliott, who is deceased.

At the outbreak of the Civil War Watson Bostic was a lad of only fifteen or sixteen. In the winter of 1863 and 1864 he joined the One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which was organized in Greensburg, and served until the end of the war, attached to the Twenty-third Corps of the Army of the Cumberland. Mr. Bostic fought at the battles of Nashville and Franklin. At Nashville, he was stricken down with measles and disabled for service, losing the use of his voice and suffering other disabilities from which he has never wholly recovered. He was discharged from the service in June, 1865. At the end of the war Mr. Bostic came back to Decatur county, and worked on a farm for some time. Subsequently he emigrated to Adams county, Illinois, and after being there for a year or two returned to Decatur county.

On August 27, 1868, Watson Bostic was married to Debby Reeves, who was born on May 7, 1850, the daughter of N. G. and Jane Reeves, the former of whom came to Indiana from Ohio, and the latter of whom came here from North Carolina. To this union four children were born, namely: Jennie, who married T. C. Goff, of Greensburg, now living at Milford, and has two sons, Lloyd Gallentine and Artie, who live with their grandfather; Rillie, who married M. B. Chambers, a well-known farmer, living on the Vernon road in Clay township and has four children, Watson, Flossie, Hilda and Cecile Anna; Charles Ora, who died in 1890, and Mrs. Nora Barnes, widow



of George Barnes, now lives at home with her father. The mother of these children died on September 15, 1914.

Mrs. Watson Bostic's mother was the daughter of William Craig, a weaver of coverlids, who lived in this county. The Bostic family has in its possession a coverlid woven in 1844, and in perfect condition. They also have a pair of tongs made by Mrs. Bostic's great-great-grandfather, who was a blacksmith by trade.

In 1884 Mr. Bostic purchased ninety-six acres of land and has added to this tract until he now owns two hundred and fifty acres, situated two miles from Milford and two miles from Burney on the Vernon road and in a very fertile section of Clay township. He has always been an industrious farmer and a hard worker. In 1904 he purchased the tract upon which he now lives, and more land in 1910 and now owns, in all, two hundred and fifty acres. The soil originally grew sugar trees, poplars and walnut. Mr. Bostic has made every dollar he has by his own hard work. A good deal of his money has been made by raising and feeding hogs.

In the community where he lives Watson Bostic is known as a dyed-in-the-wool-Republican. He has always been greatly interested in politics and is regarded as one of the leaders of his party in Clay township, having been on the firing line in most of the campaigns. He is a man of liberal views, conscientious and sincere, who inspires confidence in his fellows. For nearly forty years he has been a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford and is a member of the Greensburg post of the Grand Army of the Republic. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Bostic has always taken a prominent part in local religious work. In fairly good health, he is of an optimistic turn of mind and is considered one of the substantial citizens of Decatur county.

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#### CECIL G. HARROD, M. D.

The man who devotes his talent and energy to the noble work of ministering to the ills and alleviating the sufferings of humanity, pursues a calling which in dignity and importance is second to none other. If true to his profession and earnest in his efforts to enlarge his sphere of usefulness, he is indeed a benefactor to mankind. To him more than to any other man are entrusted the safety, comfort and lives of the people. In the professional ranks of this county Dr. Cecil G. Harrod, a physician and surgeon of Burney, has stood for many years as one of the leading physicians of Decatur county

and his practice probably is equal to that of any other physician in the county. Realizing early in his career as a physician that to obtain a success in the medical profession, he must have, not only technical ability but also broad human sympathies, Doctor Harrod has endeavored conscientiously and diligently to develop himself along these two lines. He has dignified and honored the profession to which he belongs by his noble services in this county.

Dr. Cecil G. Harrod, of Burney, is the scion of two very old families in America. Born in 1884, he is the son of Charles Fremont and Olive (Gardner) Harrod, natives of Scott county, Indiana. Charles Fremont Harrod, who is now fifty-eight years old, and who was born in Scott county, lives on a farm and is a successful and well-known school teacher, who follows this profession because of his native love of the work. He is well and favorably known in Scott county. He was named for John C. Fremont, the first candidate of the Republican party for the Presidency, and is a stanch Republican.

Doctor Harrod's mother, who before her marriage was Olive Gardner, and is now fifty-six years old, is the daughter of James Gardner, a prominent citizen of Scott county, who was honored by the people of that county, by election to several different positions of trust and responsibility. The Gardners originally came to Indiana from Virginia, and an ancestor of Doctor Harrod's mother came over to America in the "Mayflower." The family is, of course, of English origin.

The Harrod family came to Indiana from Kentucky, having previously emigrated to the latter state from Virginia. It was the great grandfather of Charles Fremont Harrod, who entered the land which the latter now owns in Scott county. This family also is of English origin. The Harrod family is one of professional men, nearly all of the male members having been lawyers or physicians. Former Judge Willard New of the Indiana appellate court, who is now a practicing lawyer in Indianapolis, is a cousin of Doctor Harrod.

In 1911 Dr. C. G. Harrod, of Burney, this county, was graduated from the medical department of the University of Louisville, a medical school well known throughout the Middle West for the high standard of its instruction. Immediately after his graduation, Doctor Harrod located in Burney and began the practice of his profession. His practice has grown from year to year until he now enjoys probably as large a practice as any physician in Decatur county. Indeed, he is the busiest man in Clay township and his books show that in a single day, he made twenty-nine professional calls. He never wastes a minute of time to reach a case. He believes in giving to each case his greatest skill, energy and talent. In his home township, where he is so well

known, he is regarded as a human dynamo and no man is more popular with the people of Clay township. He is a man of most kindly impulses, broad and liberal in his views and generous by nature and he occupies a firm place in the hearts of the people of the neighborhood covered by his practice.

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### IRA C. CARMAN.

The student of Decatur county history does not have to make searching investigations to discover that Ira C. Carman for many years has been one of its most active farmers and stock raisers as well as one of its most influential citizens. From time to time, he has added to his land holdings until he now has two hundred and sixty-seven acres lying two and one-half miles northeast of Burney on the Hope, Milford and Greensburg pike. Yet Mr. Carman himself would say that he has had no time to accumulate money but rather would have what he can buy with a dollar than to keep the dollar for its own sake. In his entire business career he has been zealous of his credit and this is one of the large secrets of his success. Aside from being an extensive landholder, he is a stockholder in the Hope bank and has at least ten thousand dollars worth of property in Burney, against which there is not one cent of indebtedness. This is the present condition of affluence of a man who, less than twenty-five years ago, began life with a poor horse and cow and without a dollar in the world. A man who has made money easily, Ira C. Carman has likewise been what might be called a liberal spender.

Ira C. Carman was born in 1859 in Ripley county, Indiana, and two years after his birth was brought to Decatur county by his parents, Reuben and Rebecca Jane (Jones) Carman, natives of Ohio, who settled on a farm near Milford. The father was a successful farmer and a well-respected man in the community, one of the local leaders of the Republican party. In 1866 the family moved to Missouri, where a little later Reuben Carman died, leaving a wife and six small children. The mother remained about two years in Missouri and then came back to Decatur county, settling near Milford, where she reared her family. On the trip to Missouri the Carmans had been accompanied by Thomas Fowler and family, Ira Sathmarsh and Watson Bostic, a young man.

To Reuben and Rebecca Jane (Jones) Carman were born six children, two of whom, William Reuben and Elmer E., are deceased. The living children are Mrs. Lodicy Elliott, the widow of James Elliott; Mrs. Elizabeth

Pumphrey, the widow of Lon Pumphrey; Ira C., the subject of this sketch; and Mrs. Mary B. Raymond, the widow of William Raymond. Frank Carman is a half brother of Ira C. The mother of these children died in 1884. She was a woman of rare business ability and reared her family to honorable and useful lives.

Ira C. Carman began life for himself at the age of eleven years and by the time he was twenty-five years old had begun to accumulate a little property. In 1880 he was united in marriage to Emma Peddicord, the daughter of Levi and Hulda (Henshaw) Peddicord, and to this union two children have been born, Edward, born in 1882, married Mattie Thompson and lives on the home place, and Maude, the wife of J. J. Boyle, principal of the high school at Columbus, Indiana.

Mr. Carman has been a very successful farmer and business man. About seventeen years ago he purchased ninety acres of land and began to raise hogs and cattle. Previous to that time he had worked for three years by the day and finally got together a "plug" horse and one cow. Subsequently, he had an opportunity to farm on the shares for Frank Butler. This was his start in life. He saved about four hundred dollars, which he paid on his first ninety-acre tract of land. He then began farming on a large scale and at different times has cultivated as much as five hundred or six hundred acres of land and at the present time is farming about five hundred acres and raising about one hundred and eighty acres of corn each year. Two years after he purchased his first tract of land, he bought another tract of one hundred and seventy-eight acres, being compelled to borrow the money to make the first payment. He paid for this farm in ten or twelve years, an exceptional record for money making, there having been numerous predictions at the time that he would fail. Many years ago he began breeding and dealing in mules and is today one of the best-known mule breeders in the state of Indiana. The mule business has been one of the great sources of his revenue, but by no means the greatest. Mr. Carman attributes his success more to hogs, corn and clover. He buys and matches mules, fattens them and sends them to market. His farm is one of the most highly improved farms, all things considered, to be found in Decatur county, particularly when external improvements are considered. It is well-drained, has splendid outbuildings and a three-story bank barn, equal to any to be found in the county. A lover of good horses, Mr. Carman also has had considerable success with raising them. He has a large silo on the farm made of vitrified tile. His land is gently undulating and formerly grew sugar trees and black walnut.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Carman has always been an active political



worker and is a firm believer in the principles of the party of Abraham Lincoln. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford and of the Knights of Pythias at Burney, being one of the trustees of the latter lodge. Mr. and Mrs. Carman are members of the Methodist church at Milford and liberal supporters of the same and are held in the highest regard throughout that whole section of the county.

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### EDWARD A. JACKSON.

Practically industry, wisely and consistently followed, never fails to bring success. It carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulus to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means in the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The everyday life with its cares, necessities and duties affords ample opportunity for acquiring experience of the best kind and its beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for effort and self improvement. Edward A. Jackson, one of the prominent citizens and farmers of Clay township, this county, belongs to an old family of that section.

Edward A. Jackson was born in Decatur county in 1857, the son of William T. and Margaret T. (Myers) Jackson, the former of whom was a native of Ohio, who came to Decatur county, settling in Clay township with his parents when a mere lad. He was born in Cincinnati about 1829, and died in 1889 at the age of sixty years. William T. Jackson was the son of William D. Jackson, who was born near the mouth of the Chickahominy river in Charles City county, Virginia, on October 13, 1797. The family originally lived in York county, a few miles east of the Chickahominy river in a very uphealthful region. The parents of William D. Jackson were stricken with malarial fever and died, leaving a large family of destitute children. The boys of the family were bound out to farmers of the neighborhood to lives of bitter toil, while the girls were sent to a public institution. William D. Jackson was one of these boys and was compelled to work in the fields with the negro slaves under the direction of a cruel overseer. The Jackson family is of Irish origin, and William D., being of a fiery Celtic nature, could not endure such a life. One day he crossed the James river and left the country. After walking for many miles he reached Petersburg, and there learned the tailor's trade. At the same time, however, he had a strong inclination for the sea. His brother, Henry, did become a sailor and another

brother, John, also went to sea and was shipwrecked and lost. William D. Jackson was accustomed to ride the river boats on the James river in following his trade as a tailor and on one of these trips got off the boat at a small town, called Crocks Ferry, on the Nanticoke river, and there met his future wife, Amelia Hillman, a daughter of Samuel Hillman, a merchant who kept the store at Crocks Landing. They were married in 1823, and, after living in Maryland until 1831, crossed the Alleghany mountains in a covered wagon and proceeded down the Ohio river by boat to Cincinnati, and there found work. At Cincinnati William D. Jackson met the elder Nicholas Longworth and with his assistance engaged in the real estate business and accumulated a snug fortune, which he invested in a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Fugit township, this county, in 1840. In 1844 he moved to this farm, and afterward owned various farms in this county, and here spent the remainder of his life. By his marriage to Amelia Hillman, William D. Jackson had a large family of children, of whom William T. was one.

William T. Jackson was about eighteen years old when he came to Decatur county with his parents. His wife, who before her marriage was Margaret Myers, was the daughter of Thomas Myers, one of the early settlers of Decatur county, and one of the wealthiest and most prominent men in pioneer times. After the Civil War William T. Jackson removed to Hendricks county, where he engaged in the dry goods and general mercantile business, and then moved to Milford, this county, where he owned a store, and kept the postoffice, also owning a large farm, now a part of the M. F. Miers land. Late in life William T. Jackson and wife removed from their farm in Clay township to Greensburg and there died. His remains are buried in the historic old cemetery at Milford. Of the children born to William T. and Margaret T. (Myers) Jackson, four are deceased and four are living, the latter being Annie, Edward A., Harry and William E. William E. lives in Washington township, this county, and Harry lives in Idaho. The deceased children were James, Benjamin, Adelaide and Jessie.

On April 14, 1880, Edward A. Jackson was married to Mary T. Burney, the daughter of S. M. and Sarah (Pumphry) Burney, old citizens of this county. S. M. Burney was born about 1814 in North Carolina and came to Decatur county with his parents in pioneer times, when Clay township was nothing but a wilderness. The family settled on a farm, which Edward A. Jackson now owns, and which is known as the old Burney farm. The parents of S. M. Burney spent the remainder of their lives in Milford, the mother having died in the home of her son, S. M. Burney, who was a very successful farmer and owned several hundred acres of land in this county.

He gave five hundred dollars to the town of Burney when it was founded and purchased stock in the railroad when the latter was constructed through that section. Burney was named for him. He was a progressive, broad-minded man, whose word was as good as his bond. A public-spirited citizen, he donated several hundred dollars to the building of the Methodist churches at Milford and at Burney. He was a stanch Democrat and true to his party. While he never asked for office, he always held at heart the welfare of his party and his country. He left the impress of his character and his influence upon the life of this community, and died full of honors, as only a private citizen who has done well his duty, can die, passing away in 1901 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Edward A. Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson was born in Clay township on the old Burney homestead, where she still lives, in 1860, one of nine children, born to her parents, six of whom are living and three of whom are deceased, James B., Lawrence and John B., deceased, and Mrs. Melinda Michael, Joseph, Mrs. Anne Littell, Edgar, Mrs. Ina Lewis and Mrs. Jackson, living.

About 1900 Edward A. Jackson sold the farm which he had owned previously and purchased at seventy dollars an acre two hundred acres of land, later buying the Dovey farm of ninety acres. This is the farm in Clay township, which Mr. Jackson owns, and is now almost invaluable. It lies at the edge of a growing and hustling town, where live as good people as are to be found anywhere on earth. Mr. Jackson has been a successful farmer, his chief products being hogs and corn. He feeds two or more carloads of hogs every year. His land is especially adapted for raising corn. Originally wet and marshy, drainage has transformed the land into a fertile garden producing abundantly almost anything that may be sown or planted.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have a beautiful home. They live in a massive brick house built by Mrs. Jackson's father, the late S. M. Burney, a half century ago. It is a monument, strong and substantial, to the memory of a man who did things well. The brick was burned on the farm and practically all of the timber and all of the material used in the house were taken from the farm.

To Edward A. and Mary T. (Burney) Jackson two children have been born, Harry and Burney. Harry Jackson, who was born in 1888, married Verna Jewell, the daughter of William and Leona Jewell, who live near the Decatur and Bartholomew county line, and to this union two children have been born, Freda and William Edwin, the latter named after his grandfather Jewell. Burney Jackson, who is a well-known young farmer of this county, married Zelpha Galbraith, daughter of Andrew and Lena Galbraith.

Edward A. Jackson is a Democrat and while not especially active as a political worker, has the interest of his party at heart. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney. He is a stockholder in the Third National Bank at Greensburg, and also a stockholder in the Hope State Bank at Hope. Mr. Jackson has been a valuable citizen in this community, whose life and career are thoroughly appreciated by his neighbors, all of whom hold him in the highest esteem.

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### SAMUEL B. HANKS.

Samuel B. Hanks, a representative farmer and stockman of Clay township, this county, descended on his paternal side from the family which gave to the world the mother of Abraham Lincoln, is known as one of the alert, progressive and liberal-minded farmers of this section. A man of wide information and reading he has been for many years a leader among the farmers of Clay township, having lived on his present fine farm in that township since the time of his marriage, in 1907.

Born in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, in 1877, Samuel B. Hanks is a son of Newton and Mary (Alley) Hanks, the latter of whom was the daughter of Samuel B. and Nancy (Selby) Alley, and the former of whom was born May 14, 1837, in Bradford county, Kentucky, the son of Sidnor D. Hanks, a pioneer citizen in that state. To Newton and Mary (Alley) Hanks were born four children, Nannie and Hattie, deceased; Samuel R., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Amelia Boyce. Newton Hanks, who now lives in Covington, Kentucky, was a soldier in the Civil War, having enlisted three times and having served until the close of the war. His wife died in 1893. Newton Hanks has always been an ardent Democrat and is a member of the Baptist church.

Samuel B. Hanks was educated in the common schools of this county and at the Central Normal College at Danville, Indiana, as well as at Franklin College, receiving a liberal classical education, admirable preparation for the duties of life. On September 10, 1907, he was married to Della Davis, the daughter of James B. and Martha (Ewing) Davis, pioneer citizens of this county, to which union has been born one child, a daughter, Mary Caroline, who was born on December 25, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Hanks are members of the Baptist church and are active in all good works in their neighborhood, being held in the very highest regard by all in that community. Mr. Hanks.



is a Democrat and takes a warm interest in the political affairs of the county, being an ardent advocate of the principles of good government. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney and is popular with all the members of that lodge, as well as in the community at large.

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### JAMES G. DAVIS.

The commencement of the Davis family in Decatur county dates from the time that the late James Davis came to America, a poor lad of eleven years, from that country which has given to America so many of her distinguished citizens and especially so many of her successful farmers and financiers. There is a flavor of romance in the career of this poor Irish lad, who after settling in Decatur county, Indiana, acquired during his life time nearly three thousand acres of land, and came to be known throughout the length and breadth of this county, and of adjoining counties, for his shrewd and far-seeing judgment. Nevertheless, in all of his dealings he was known as a man whose word was as good as gold, honest and true in all the relations of life. He was, however, a speculator in land and owned five hundred acres in Daviess county, and the balance in Decatur and Shelby counties. That he was honored and respected is amply proved by the fact that on many occasions he was chosen to administer and settle up estates. It is a son of this Irish lad who, by diligent application of his native faculties, became a well-to-do citizen, that is the subject of this sketch. James G. Davis is an enterprising farmer of Adams township, where he owns two hundred and sixty-four acres of land and where he is known as a large stockman.

James G. Davis was born on March 28, 1876, on the Davis homestead, where he now lives. His parents, James and Sarah E. (Braden) Davis were natives of Mayo, Ireland, and Decatur county, Indiana, respectively. The former was born April 26, 1829, and died May 5, 1904, and the latter was born January 10, 1837, in Clay township, Decatur county, and died June 12, 1911.

After attending school near his home, James G. Davis lived with his father until the latter's death in 1904, and at his death received the old family homestead as a part of his inheritance. During these early years of his life he was engaged in farming, and was very successful, learning from his father the rudiments of agriculture. On his Adams township farm he now has an annual output of more than two hundred head of hogs. In 1913 he erected



RESIDENCE OF JAMES G. DAVIS.



at a cost of eight thousand dollars, a splendid modern home of twelve rooms, which is equipped with every modern convenience available to residents of the countryside. Not only is there a large barn on the farm, but there are also many other substantial buildings.

On December 24, 1907, three years after the death of his father, Mr. Davis was married at the age of thirty-one to Flora M. Champ, of near Burney, the daughter of F. Marion and Jennie Virginia (Boyce) Champ. The father is still living two miles west of Burney. The mother died on January 21, 1909. To Mr. and Mrs. Davis have been born two children, Sarah Virginia, born on November 15, 1909, and Francis Marion, on July 5, 1910; the former of whom is six years old and the latter is four.

Although Mr. Davis is an ardent Democrat, the pressure of his own personal business has been too great to permit him to participate actively in political affairs, leaving such matters to others. Fraternally, he is a member of Milford lodge, Free and Accepted Masons. Mr. Davis and family are all active workers in Union Chapel United Brethren church. Not only is Mr. Davis a large contributor to the church, but he takes a commendable interest in the various activities of Union Chapel, and is a man of strong religious instincts and impulses. So far as he is able, Mr. Davis is bent on carrying forward the ambitions and ideals of his worthy father. It is not too much to say that he has taken his place in the foremost ranks of the citizens of Adams township, and is today regarded as a wise and capable leader in all worthy enterprises which reflect the interest of the public as a whole.

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### THEODORE ELLIOTT.

Theodore Elliott has long been one of the active farmers and leading citizens of Clay township, this county, and at the present time owns a quarter section of land two miles southeast of Burney, a farm of gently undulating and fertile soil. His father was a veteran of the Civil War and his mother was reared in pioneer times on the broad prairies of the Hawkeye state.

Theodore Elliott was born in Clay township, near Clifty creek in 1850, the son of John P. and Margaret (Heron) Elliott. The latter was born at Woodburn, Ohio, the daughter of Samuel Heron, a native of Ohio, who moved to Iowa, when Margaret was a small child and settled on the Des Moines river. He was the first white settler in that section of the Hawkeye



state and one of the first in Iowa, the Indians at that time holding practically undisputed possession of the country. Samuel Heron became the first mail carrier of the state; in fact, he laid out the first established mail route in Iowa. His first home was within speaking distance of an Indian village. His wife, Nancy Heron, the grandmother of Theodore Elliott, herded cattle on the prairies amid the dangerous attacks by the Indians. For the most part, however, the Indians were peaceful at that time. Samuel Heron and his wife spent their last days in the state of Iowa. There were several children born to them, of whom Margaret, the mother of Mr. Elliott, was the second. It was while on a visit to Iowa that John P. Elliott was married to Margaret Heron.

After their marriage, John P. Elliott and his wife returned to Decatur county and settled in Clay township, where the former engaged in the saw-mill business on Clifty creek. He combined farming and the milling business until the outbreak of the Civil War, at which time he enlisted at the first call of President Lincoln for volunteers. He became a member of the Seventh Indiana Regiment Volunteer Infantry and, as color bearer of the regiment, served two years, being discharged for disability. At the time he was somewhat past the prime of life. He was a brave and capable soldier and intensely patriotic. He came from a family of soldiers, his grandfather, McClure Elliott, having been a soldier in the War of 1812. John P. Elliott served in some of the bloodiest and fiercest battles of the Civil War, among which was the battle of Antietam and the Wilderness campaign. He was a staunch Republican and true to the principles of the great Lincoln. After the war, he came back to Decatur county and died here about 1900, the last years of his life being spent in Greensburg. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. A successful farmer and business man, he owned at the time of his death, eight or nine hundred acres of fine land.

Of his five children, Harry, Mary, Martha, Theodore and James, all are living save the last named. Harry lives at Westport, Mary at Greensburg, Martha at Greensburg and Theodore is the subject of this sketch.

After living at home on the farm with his parents until he had reached his majority, Theodore Elliott was married to Ida Barger, daughter of William and Mary Ellen (Lowry) Barger, the latter of whom is a descendant of Captain Lowry, one of the oldest and most prominent of Decatur county settlers, having come here from Kentucky. To this union one child was born, Glenn, who lives on the old farm near Burney. Mrs. Ida Elliott died on December 4, 1886. Fifteen years later Mr. Elliott married, secondly, Sarah Steelman, daughter of James S. and Anna (Peggs) Steelman, prominent resi-

dents of Clay township, this county, both now dead, the former of whom was born in Union county, Indiana, and the latter in Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott are members of the Methodist church at Burney, active in all neighborhood good works, and are held in the highest esteem throughout the community in which they live.

Mr. Elliott, who now is living retired from the active work of the farm, is a progressive citizen, liberal and broad-minded in his views. He is a Republican and intensely loyal to the party of his father and the party of Abraham Lincoln. Having enjoyed during his youth more than the ordinary advantages for obtaining an education, having attended Hartsville College, he is well informed and up-to-date, one of the most substantial citizens in that section of Decatur county.

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### JAMES L. POWNER.

The career of the late James L. Powner was one marked by earnest and indefatigable application; not only to his vocation as a farmer, but to the general affairs of life. He was a soldier in the Civil War, where his fidelity was of the highest type and the kind which won for him the confidence and esteem of his superior officers and which later, in the peaceful pursuits of life, won for him the unbounded respect of the public generally. His death on October 23, 1888, was mourned throughout this county, for he was a good man, true to all the relations of life.

Born in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1837, the late James L. Powner came to Decatur county when a young man and here he lived until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted in the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Colonel Welsh. He served two years in this regiment and was then discharged on account of disability. After recuperating at home for six months, he re-enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served until the end of the war, being mustered out as a sergeant, with a record of brave and efficient soldier. James L. Powner had an intense love for his country and his flag and fought in some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, among which were the battles of the Wilderness and Antietam. Intensely interested in the politics of his country, Mr. Powner later was always on the firing line of the Republican party, to which he was attached throughout his life.

On September 12, 1865, James L. Powner was married to Abigail

Gibson, a daughter of Stewart and Mary (Bell) Gibson, natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Powner, who was born in 1845, in Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, fifty miles from Philadelphia, now lives on a beautiful farm of one hundred and seventy-six acres in this county, three miles southeast of Burney, on the Liberty church road, and two miles west of Liberty church.

Mrs. Powner's father, Steward Gibson, was the son of James David Gibson, a native of Ireland, who came to America some time during the American Revolution and settled in Pennsylvania, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a prosperous farmer and at his death left his children a comfortable fortune. Of the five children born to James David Gibson and wife, Steward Gibson, the father of Mrs. Powner, was the eldest. He was married in Pennsylvania to Mary Bell, who was the daughter of Jeremiah Bell, a colonel in the Revolutionary army. The Bells were of English descent and an intensely patriotic family. Col. Jeremiah Bell was a man of more than average ability. Until his buildings were burned by the British and his property confiscated by the king's army, he was the richest man in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. On the vast estate in Pennsylvania still stands the old colonial mansion, in good repair, kept just as it was during the War for Independence. Col. Jeremiah Bell served throughout the war and after its close, returned to his home and family, spending the rest of his life in Lancaster county. He married a Miss McCullough, a member of one of the old and prominent families of Pennsylvania, to which union there were born but two children, of whom Mary, the mother of Mrs. Powner was the younger. Steward Gibson and Mary Bell were married about 1835 and lived in Pennsylvania until about 1850, when they came to Decatur county, Indiana. Their five children were born in Pennsylvania, and when Mrs. Powner was five years old the family came to this county. Upon their arrival in Decatur county they settled in Clay township, where their descendants now form a numerous connection. For his time, Steward Gibson was fairly prosperous and was a farmer and stock buyer, widely and favorably known throughout this county. In later life he moved to Oregon and lived with his eldest daughter, his death occurring in that state in 1900.

The five children born to Steward and Mary (Bell) Gibson are as follow: Mrs. Jane Courtney, of Spokane, Washington; James David, of California; John Stewart, deceased, who lived in Kansas; Abigail, the widow of Mr. Powner, of this county, and Reuben, of Iowa.

To James L. and Abigail (Gibson) Powner was born but one son, Elmer Margin, born on August 28, 1866, a bachelor, who lives with his mother on the home farm. Elmer M. Powner is a Republican, as was his

father before him, and is a substantial citizen. Although a broad-minded and progressive citizen like his father, he is a man of quiet and unassuming manners, a great student of the literature of the day and a progressive and keen thinker. Mrs. Powner is a woman of far more than average ability. When she was left a widow, the farm which she now owns was heavily mortgaged and she was without experience in the world of business. Most seriously handicapped for the want of experience, she grappled bravely with the problems of life as they confronted her and by virtue of her keen intelligence, she mastered these problems. She is today known as one of the substantial business women of Decatur county. Aside from her business ability, she is a woman of striking personality, loved and respected by a legion of friends in Clay township. Mrs. Powner is now contemplating a trip to Pennsylvania to visit the old colonial homestead of her grandfather, Col. Jeremiah Bell, of Revolutionary fame.

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#### COL. BENJAMIN COREY SHAW.

A generation ago the late Col. Benjamin Corey Shaw was one of Indiana's most distinguished and best-known citizens. Descended from an old English family and the son of the first white child born in the fort at Cincinnati, Ohio; a colonel in the Civil War and treasurer of state in Indiana, Colonel Shaw had indeed a distinguished record and one of which his descendants now living in Decatur county well may be proud. He was a man of wonderful ability, both native and acquired, a natural leader of men.

Benjamin Corey Shaw was born near Oxford, Ohio, February 3, 1830, the son of James and Sarah (Stearns) Shaw, the former of whom was a native of England, who came to America when a mere lad. The latter was born in the old fort which stood on the site of the present city of Cincinnati, at that time no more than a trading post on the outpost of civilization. Sarah Stearns was probably the first white child born in Cincinnati, her mother having taken refuge in the fort after her husband had been murdered by the Indians. After his marriage, James Shaw settled on a farm near Oxford, Ohio, and there he reared his family of eight children, of whom Benjamin Corey was probably the fifth. The father died when this son was about fifteen or sixteen years old and the widowed mother, after bringing the family to Decatur county, married Isaac Wolverton, a prominent resident of this county.

When about eighteen years old Benjamin C. Shaw left his mother's home



and went to Greensburg, where he learned the carriage builder's trade, in which he was engaged until the breaking out of the Civil War. At the first call for troops he joined the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was presently sent back home with a commission to organize another regiment. In obedience to this commission he organized the Sixty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, of which he was colonel commanding until the battle of Winchester, in which engagement he was so severely wounded that it was necessary to send him home on account of disabilities. He later returned to the front, but his injuries had been too severe to permit further service, and he presently resigned his command.

After the war Colonel Shaw returned to Greensburg and resumed work at his trade, but remained in business there only a short time, in 1866 removing to Indianapolis, where he engaged in carriage and wagon building and created an extensive industry there. Eventually, he drifted into politics and in 1876 was elected treasurer of the state of Indiana, being re-elected in 1878. He was always in the thick of the political fight and for years was one of the foremost counselors of the Democratic party in Indiana, for several terms serving as a member of the Democratic state central committee. He was a member of the Masonic order and a Knight Templar and also was adjutant-general of the Loyal Legion and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

About 1882 Col. Benjamin C. Shaw moved to Toledo, Ohio, where he was engaged as superintendent for the Milburn wagon works. Later he took a position at Racine, Wisconsin, as manager of the plant at that place and became finally superintendent of the great Studebaker plant at South Bend. Upon leaving South Bend he returned to Indianapolis and shortly afterward was appointed chief of the registry department of the postoffice there, a position he held for eight years, or until his death, which occurred on April 10, 1901, at his home in Indianapolis.

On March 24, 1850, Benjamin Corey Shaw was married to Elizabeth A. Coy, the daughter of William and Sarah (Robinson) Coy, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky, who came to this section of Indiana very early in the settlement of the same and made a home in the wilderness, clearing the dense timber for that purpose. To this union were born eleven children, of which remarkable family only two, Miss Fannie and Mrs. Edna Shaw Byers, the wife of George W. Byers, are now living. The deceased children were Sarah Jane, Henry Clay, Mrs. Molly Shaw (Weller) Shaffer, of Indianapolis, Martha, Emma, Oliver Perry Morton, Ida, Etta and Eddie.

Miss Fannie Shaw, one of the living children born to Colonel Shaw and

wife, was born in Greensburg in 1861, and when only four years old was taken by her parents to Indianapolis, to which place they removed at that time. She was educated in St. John's Academy and after her graduation returned home and remained with and cared for her father and mother as long as they lived. She is now living with her sister, Mrs. George Byers, to whom she has always been closely attached by the keenest ties of sisterly affection. Mrs. Byers was born on October 17, 1873.

This remarkable family has brought honor and distinction to Decatur county and to the state of Indiana; in fact, honors which the two living descendants appreciate highly. Colonel Shaw was more than a distinguished citizen; he was a kind and loving father and his memory is cherished with the utmost devotion by his daughters.

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### JAMES M. BYERS.

James M. Byers, a prosperous farmer living two miles east of Burney, in Clay township, in this county, who owns two hundred and forty-five acres of gently undulating land, is one of the most useful citizens living in Decatur county. Highly spoken of by his neighbors, he has a host of friends in the county and is still active in farm work at the age of seventy years.

James M. Byers was born in Rush county, this state, in 1845, the son of James R. and Sarah (Carr) Byers, both natives of Kentucky, who came to Indiana about 1840, settling on a farm in Rush county, where they became prosperous citizens and well respected in the community. In 1857 they moved to Decatur county, locating on the farm now owned by their son, J. M. Byers, the subject of this sketch. James R. Byers was the son of John Byers, of Scotch-Irish descent, who came with a number of sturdy families to America and became an influential pioneer citizen of Kentucky. James R. Byers accumulated a great deal of valuable land in this county. His wife, Sarah Carr, who was born in Kentucky in 1817, was the daughter of George Carr, also an early settler in this county.

James M. Byers lived at home with his parents as long as they lived and has never married. At their death, he succeeded to the home farm, which he has operated ever since. Though an ardent Republican, he has never tried for political office, but has always been active in the campaigns of his party, and his influence is always counted on the right side of every public question. Friends are lavish in their praise of his character, his industry and his wise

and prudent management. He has a fertile farm and is comfortable and happy, enjoying the confidence and esteem of many friends. Any community or any county may well be proud of such a man as J. M. Byers.

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### WILLIAM A. LAWSON.

The late William A. Lawson, at the time of his death, in 1904, was a prosperous farmer living five miles west of Greensburg and owned at the time of his death three hundred acres of land. During practically all of his life, he was a resident of what is known in this section as the Lawson neighborhood, and was one of the most highly respected citizens of the community.

William A. Lawson was born in Virginia in the year 1837, the son of James and Jane (Jones) Lawson, natives of that state, who came to Decatur county over a half century ago, and settled on what is now known as the Harrison Davis farm. They were prosperous citizens in their day and generation and accumulated considerable property. There on that farm William A. Lawson grew to manhood and received the rudiments of an education.

In 1857, at the age of twenty years, William A. Lawson was married to Permelia Braden, the daughter of Jackson P. and Nancy (LeMasters) Braden, the former a native of Kentucky, of Irish descent, who came to Decatur county about 1823, settling in Clay township, where he rented land, now owned by his descendants. At the time of his death, in 1857, Jackson Braden was the owner of fourteen hundred and eighty acres of land in Clay township. He was a prominent Democrat in his day and generation and a member of the Methodist church, assisting materially in the work of erecting the church at Milford. Mrs. Lawson, who was born on the old Braden homestead in 1839, is a splendid type of the hearty womanhood of pioneer times in Indiana.

To Jackson P. and Nancy (LeMasters) Braden were born the following children: Euphemia, now deceased, who married Anderson Miers; Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of Evan Miers; Jane, deceased, who was the wife of Dr. J. L. Wooden, also deceased; Rebecca, deceased, who was the wife of John L. Miers; William, deceased; Marietta, the wife of Judge Roberts, of Colorado; Seth, deceased; James L., deceased; Sarah E., now deceased, who married James Davis; Permelia, the widow of Mr. Lawson; Mahala, who married Samuel H. Ewing; Seth, deceased, and a daughter who died in infancy.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson settled on a farm near the

old Lawson homestead, near where Mrs. Lawson's father also had entered land, and in a region known as the Braden neighborhood, and there they made their home. To their union eleven children were born, namely: Seth, a farmer, who lives in Swinton, Missouri; Mrs. Jennie L. Gallentin, of Elreno, Oklahoma; Cora, who died in infancy; Mrs. Sarah Henderson, who died on February 11, 1895; Josephine, who lives with her mother; Mary, who married Carl Johnson of Clay township; Samuel, a farmer of Clay township, this county; Herschel, a farmer, of Swinton, Missouri; Cloe, who married Clarence Johnson, of Clay township, Decatur county, and two others who died in infancy.

The late William A. Lawson was a prominent man during his day and generation. He and his wife did much to help lift the standard of citizenship in this county and to make this section the prosperous and successful agricultural community that it is today. William A. Lawson was a Democrat, a stanch believer in the principles of his party and an ardent worker in behalf of the party's success. Mrs. Lawson is a member of the Christian church at Milford, as was her late husband, and is a good Christian woman, a decided influence for good in the community where she has lived so long, and enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know her.

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#### ALLEN JEWELL.

Among the prosperous farmers living near Burney, in Decatur county, the venerable Allen Jewell, a veteran of the Civil War, is one of the most eminently respected of men, a substantial citizen who owns one hundred and sixty acres of fertile land in that community.

Allen Jewell was born in this county on February 25, 1844, the son of Horace and Elizabeth (Buchanan) Jewell, the former of whom was born in Kentucky in 1808, a son of Allen Jewell, a native of Kentucky, and one of the pioneers in that state. In 1832 Horace Jewell came to Indiana from Kentucky, locating in this county, and here spent the rest of his life. He was a strong factor in the early development of this county, having been a leader in many of the movements which resulted in extensive public improvements. Throughout his life he was identified with the Whig party and was a member of the United Brethren church. He was an honest and well-respected citizen and an ancestor of whom his descendants may be justly proud. He died in 1873. Elizabeth Buchanan, to whom he was married in 1838, bore him eight



children, as follow: Eliza Jane, who married Thomas Townsend; Luduska, who married William Pumphry, of Decatur county; Melconia, who married James Lawson; Allen, the subject of this sketch; James C., who lives in Bartholomew county; Elijah J., who lives in Arkansas; Mary Emily, who married Cyrus Pumphrey, of Bartholomew county, and Noah, deceased.

Allen Jewell was a lad of seventeen years when the Civil War broke out and he joined the Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Colonel Welsh. On the first day of the battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, he was taken prisoner and was confined in the Confederate prison pen at Andersonville for ten months. Upon being exchanged he was discharged on March 25, 1865. The war terminating shortly thereafter, he returned to Decatur county. During his services as a Union soldier he participated in the battles of Winchester, Virginia, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Antietam, Gettysburg, Greensborough and South Mountain, his active service terminating at the battle of the Wilderness, where he was captured.

In 1867 Allen Jewell was united in marriage to Fannie Pumphrey, daughter of Eli and Elizabeth (Knight) Pumphrey, prominent residents of this county, and to this union one son was born, J. E. Jewell, born in 1869, a bachelor, who has always remained on the home farm with his father, the two being in partnership in operating the farm. Mrs. Jewell died in 1898.

Mr. Jewell and his son, J. E., are both ardent Republicans, always having been staunch and true to the party of Lincoln, and Allen Jewell is a member of the Baptist church. J. E. Jewell is a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford. While intensely patriotic and loyal in his political affiliations and beliefs, Allen Jewell has never sought office. He and his son have a comfortable, happy home, when old-fashioned hospitality may be found in abundance. Their present fine home, one mile east of the pleasant village of Burney, was erected in 1898, the commodious barn, forty by forty-four feet, **having been built in the same year**, the other improvements on the farm being **in keeping with the substantial character of the two central buildings**. The house is a comfortable and convenient nine-room dwelling, of modern construction, with hot-water heating plant, one of the pleasantest homes thereabout. Allen Jewell started without a dollar, but he and his wife, by good management and industry, accumulated the snug fortune of which they were possessed at the time of Mrs. Jewell's death, and which Mr. Jewell still prudently conserves, a fortune honorably won, the fruit of honest toil. Allen Jewell is one of the best citizens of Decatur county; broad-minded, liberal and a clear thinker. Patriotic in his devotion to his country and a Christian man in every respect, he is held in the highest regard throughout the whole county

## JOHN T. MYERS.

One of the well-recognized functions of a publication such as this is to recognize those citizens who represent most ably the various vocations and the various spheres of human endeavor. In this connection the life and works of John T. Myers, a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county, should be mentioned, he being the owner of a productive farm of fifty-six and three-quarters acres, a part of the old Richard Wright homestead.

John T. Wright was born on the Myers homestead, in Clay township, this county, in 1851, the son of William H. and Elizabeth (Annis) Myers, the former of whom was born in Kentucky, a son of George Myers, also a native of that state, who came to Decatur county in pioneer times. Frank Myers, the father of George Myers, was a soldier in the Revolutionary army, who moved to Kentucky at an early day in the settlement of that state.

William H. Myers, who died in 1906, was a successful farmer and owned about three hundred acres of land in this county. He was a Democrat in politics, a member of the Liberty Baptist church, and was highly respected in his community. Of the nine children born to William H. and Elizabeth Myers, four, William M., Mrs. Alice Sanders, Mrs. Elsie Sharp and Monroe M., are deceased. The living children are James A., George M., John T., Mrs. Ida May Johnson, of Indianapolis and Merritt Elwood, of Oklahoma.

Reared on a farm in this county, John T. Myers was married in 1875 to Minnie Wright, daughter of Richard and Luvicia (Stark) Wright, the former of whom was a native of Rockbridge county, Virginia, who came to this county in pioneer times. He settled in Clay township on a farm that his father had entered from the government, the same being the one now owned by John T. Myers. A successful farmer, he spent the rest of his days in Clay township and his word was known to be as good as his bond. He was a member of the Democratic party and was elected trustee of Clay township. Religiously, he was identified with the Baptist church, having been one of the founders of the church at Liberty; in fact, having given the ground upon which the church was built, and was also one of the trustees of that church and a deacon. His wife was a daughter of Caleb S. and Anne (Boone) Stark, the latter of whom was one of the characteristic women of her generation, of a strong and fearless character, a cousin of Col. Daniel Boone, of Kentucky. Luvicia Wright was a woman widely known for her charitable disposition, who was always ready to lend a helping hand to the needy. She also was a member of the pioneer Baptist church.

Of the children born to Richard and Luvicia (Stark) Wright, four are

deceased. The living children are Sarah L., who married Theodore McGee, of Iowa; Caleb S., of Decatur county; R. T. W., of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Minnie A., who married Mr. Myers, and Loda W., of Westport. The deceased children were Frances Catherine, Charles W., William W. and Ruth A.

Following his marriage Mr. Myers settled on a farm near Horace and has succeeded very well as a farmer; but, better than his success in business, is the honor and respect which he enjoys in the community in which he lives. Although a stanch Democrat, politically, he has always been an independent thinker and to some extent votes independently.

To John T. and Minnie (Wright) Myers have been born four children, one of whom, Lula M., died in infancy. The living children are Charles, born in 1876, who lives in Connersville, Indiana; Frank, 1878, who lives in Clay township, this county, and Forrest M., 1889, who lives at home with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers are members of the Liberty Baptist church and their children have been reared in that faith, the family being eminently respected in that community.

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### JOHN HUNTER.

The respect which should be accorded to the brave sons of the North, who left their homes and the peaceful pursuits of civil life to give their services and their lives, if need be, to preserve the integrity of the Union, is due the memory of the late John Hunter, of Clay township, this county, who at the time of his death, owned a farm of one hundred and twenty-two acres of excellent land on the Greensburg pike.

The late John Hunter was born on May 2, 1842, the son of Lewis and Maria (Martin) Hunter, natives of Indiana. When a young man he came to this county and became a successful farmer.

During the early period of the Civil War, when the Thirty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry was being recruited, John Hunter joined Company H, of that regiment, and served altogether three years and forty days. He was a brave and efficient soldier and returned home with honors for his valiant service. In the severe engagement at Dug Gap, Georgia, he was wounded and was laid up three months.

At the close of the war, Mr. Hunter came back to Decatur county and

was married on August 16, 1866, to Mahala Davis, a daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth (Miers) Davis, natives of Decatur county and members of old and prominent families. To this union were born eight children, namely: Mrs. Annie Hunter, deceased; Lewis M., of Montana; George W., deceased; Mathias D., who lives on a farm five miles east of Greensburg, in this county; John F., of Colorado; William R., deceased; Albert E. E., of Clay township, this county, and Everett R., also of Clay township, this county. On July 27, 1908, Everett R. Hunter was united in marriage to Minnie Ramer, of Shelby county, this state, daughter of Joseph and Etna (Risk) Ramer, the former a native of Ripley county, Indiana, and the latter a native of Decatur county, who are now living on a farm in Clay township, this county, and to this union has been born one child, a son, John L. B., born on September 8, 1909.

Mrs. Mahala Hunter died on December 8, 1891, and on May 2, 1893, Mr. Hunter married, secondly, Kittie Miers, a daughter of T. J. and Oliva (King) Miers, the latter of whom was the daughter of John G. and Sarah (Ewing) King, well known in this county. John G. King was a prosperous farmer and, at one time in his life owned several hundred acres of land. His family were early settlers in Decatur county and became permanently established in the agricultural life of this section and in the affections of the people. To this second marriage there were born four children, as follow: Mary J., born on March 28, 1894; Joseph Dewey, May 25, 1898; Roberta E., November 8, 1899, and Edith Irene, July 12, 1901. The Hunter family is considered one of the well-to-do and prominent families in this county. The Hunter farm is one of the richest in Decatur county and is composed mostly of level black soil of great fertility.

Mrs. Hunter was educated in the common schools of Decatur county and in the teachers' training school at St. Paul, Indiana, which was in charge of L. D. Braden at that period. After finishing her education, Mrs. Hunter taught school for one year before she was married. She is a woman of most genial presence, kind and loving, broad-minded and liberal in her views; a typical woman of this century.

The late John Hunter was always a Republican, taking a great interest in the welfare of his party, yet he was somewhat independent in his voting, more of a patriot than a partisan. He was a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Greensburg. He passed away on September 25, 1910, at the age of sixty-eight years, full of honors in the community where his life had been spent. John Hunter was a progressive citizen in the broader sense of the word and his loss was keenly felt and widely mourned by the people of the township in which his influence had so long been exerted for good.



## JOHN A. MIRES.

It is interesting to note the growth and development of the county from the beginning, to follow its lines of progress and especially the vocational bent of its citizens in the work of advancing the material interest of the community. John A. Mires, a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county, and the proprietor of a beautiful and fertile farm of one hundred and twenty acres on the Columbus & Greensburg pike, six miles from Greensburg, is one of the strong and sturdy citizens of Decatur county, who has especially helped to promote the agricultural development of the county; who is an up-to-date farmer and business man, a public-spirited citizen and progressive in all of the relations of life.

John A. Mires was born in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, in 1867, the son of Thomas J. and Sarilda (King) Mires, both natives of Decatur county, the former of whom was the son of Anderson and Euphemia (Braden) Mires, Euphemia Braden having been one of the daughters of Jackson Braden, a prominent pioneer of this county. Thomas J. Mires early in life purchased the Abe Ewing farm near the Ewington postoffice on the Columbus & Greensburg pike, and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring when he was about fifty-eight years of age. He was a successful farmer and had a host of friends. About 1865 Thomas J. Mires was married to Sarilda King, and to this union six children were born of whom John A., the subject of this sketch, was the eldest.

After living at home until he had reached his majority John A. Mires was married, in 1888, to Fannie Pavy, daughter of Ralph P. and Nancy (Davis) Pavy, the former of whom was the son of John and Mary (Stewart) Pavy. John Pavy was born near Vevay, in Switzerland county, this state, and was a brother of Jefferson Pavy, the father of the Pavy sisters, further reference to whom is made elsewhere in this volume. Born in Vevay, Indiana, on July 25, 1824, Ralph P. Pavy came to Decatur county in 1837 and settled in Clay township on the farm where he spent the rest of his life, his father also dying there. Ralph P. Pavy was a man of literary talent, though handicapped by meager educational advantages. He had a powerful mind, the influence of which was felt in Decatur and surrounding counties. A teacher by profession, he taught his first school in Clay township in 1844, when twenty-five years old, and was intimately acquainted with Edward Eggleston. He was deeply interested in civic affairs and served as county assessor of Decatur county. His father, John Pavy, was a skillful carpenter,

who built the house which is still standing on the farm owned by John A. Mires, the farm still being known as the old Pavy farm. This house was built in 1839 and is one of the oldest houses standing in Decatur county. John Pavy also was a Baptist preacher and was said to have been the most highly educated minister of his day in this section. Though farming was his occupation, he preached on Sundays at Greensburg; a pure labor of love, for he received no pay for his services.

In 1846 Ralph P. Pavy was married to Nancy Davis, who was born in Kentucky in 1827 and who died in March, 1915, at the age of eighty-eight years. She was a daughter of James and Martha (Smothers) Davis. James Davis was a prominent farmer of Frankfort county, Kentucky, a member of the Baptist church and a man of strong religious convictions, who went to Jennings county, Indiana, and settled on a farm where he spent the rest of his life, rearing a family of eleven children, of whom all are now dead save Mrs. Elizabeth Brett, widow of Thomas Brett, of Bartsville, Bartholomew county, this state. To Ralph P. and Nancy (Davis) Pavy were born the following children: Jane, who married John Burney; W. S., who married Eliza McCintic; Lucy, who married John Umpshire; Mary, who married Commodore James, and Fannie, who married John A. Mires.

Always interested in politics, the late Ralph P. Pavy cast his first vote for General Scott, the Whig candidate for President, in 1848. In 1856 he became a Republican and was a patriotic supporter of the Union army during the Civil War. He was a member of the Christian church at Milford and when he died his funeral was the largest ever witnessed in Decatur county up to that time.

Mrs. John A. Mires was born on November 11, 1866, in Clay township and was educated in the common schools of that township and at Hartsville College, where she studied music. After her graduation, she taught music in Decatur county for five years or until her marriage in 1889 to Mr. Mires. Mr. and Mrs. Mires have had one son, Ralph, who was born on September 15, 1892. He married Alpha Hancock and the young couple live with Mr. and Mrs. Mires. After their marriage, John A. Mires and wife started life on the old Pavy farm, which they still own and where they still live. From 1903 until her death, Mrs. Mires's mother lived with them.

At the close of Cleveland's last administration, Mr. Mires purchased his farm, going in debt for the entire tract, and it is now clear of all encumbrances. John A. Mires is a man of pleasing manners and well respected by all who know him. He is a progressive farmer and has a fertile and highly-productive farm, which he is operating with much success, specializing in the

raising of hogs and mules. He is a Republican, but more a patriot than a partisan. A man of strong convictions, his party must be right to win his support. Mr. and Mrs. Mires are members of the Christian church at Milford and are held in the highest esteem throughout that section of the county in which their influence has been for years so strongly exerted in behalf of all goods things.

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### JONATHAN L. ALLEY.

Jonathan L. Alley, a farmer living four and one-half miles southeast of Burney, in Clay township, this county, was born in 1865, the son of Samuel B. and Nancy (Selby) Alley, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, this state, on January 6, 1819, the son of Cyrus and Charity (Nelson) Alley, the latter of whom was the daughter of Daniel Nelson, whose brother, Thomas Nelson, Jr., was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Cyrus Alley was born in Virginia in 1792, the son of Samuel Alley, whose wife, a Hollander, was one of a shipload of Dutch girls sent over from Holland, whose passage was paid for by their prospective husbands, one hundred pounds of tobacco being the fare for such passenger. Samuel Alley was a native of England, a member of an aristocratic family and one of the early settlers of Virginia. Cyrus Alley migrated with his family from Virginia to the spot where Cincinnati, Ohio, is now situated and after remaining there for a short time pushed on to Franklin county, this state. Later he came to Decatur county, bringing with him his family, and his father, Samuel, who received the first deed in Clay township. Cyrus Alley arrived in Decatur county about 1828 and entered land in Clay township, where his descendants live to this day. He was a prosperous farmer and a broad-minded man and reared a large family of children, of whom Samuel B. was one of the youngest.

When Samuel B. Alley was about twenty-two years old he was married to Nancy Selby, who was the daughter of Joshua and Lydia (Townsend) Selby, the latter of whom was born in 1824 in Harrison county, Kentucky. Joshua Selby was a native of England, who came to America when a young man, settled in Virginia and later migrated to Kentucky, where he married and reared his family. He was a minister in the New Light church and a large slave-holder, who, after going over to the Christian church, became convinced that slavery was not consistent with religion, and one Sunday morn-

ing after holding a meeting of prayer, freed his slaves. This action was so strongly condemned by the people of his community that he left Kentucky and came with his family to Decatur county, where he became a strong factor in the life of the newer community. He and his wife reared a large family, Nancy, the mother of J. L. Alley, being one of the youngest of these children. She was married to Samuel B. Alley in Decatur county. They settled on a farm in Clay township and became prosperous. Samuel B. Alley was a member of the Christian church and a man of resolute and fearless character as well as of generous disposition and was widely known in this county, his home being famous for its hospitality, a popular stopping place for stock buyers and travelers. He died in September, 1892, his wife having preceded him to the grave about eight years before, her death having occurred in February, 1884.

To Samuel B. and Nancy (Selby) Alley were born seven children, as follow: Mary E., who married Newton Hanks, now deceased; Mrs. Charity Henderson, who lives in Oklahoma; Hiram O., of Oklahoma City; Joshua S., of Shelby county, Indiana; Mrs. Elizabeth Wasson, of Burney, this county; Mrs. Ida M. Howard, wife of James Howard, who lives on a part of the old Samuel B. Alley homestead, and Jonathan L., the subject of this sketch.

Born on the old Alley homestead on September 27, 1865, Jonathan L. Alley grew to manhood on the Clay township farm and was educated in the common schools of that neighborhood. When he was twenty-two years old he was married to Lucy Ewing, a daughter of Joshua Ewing, one of the triplets born to Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ewing, pioneers of this section, whose family history is to be found elsewhere in this volume, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Samuel B., Jr., who died on July 12, 1889; Alice E., who died on February 6, 1893; Hester Allie, wife of Dr. E. A. Porter, of Burney, and Gail S., at home.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Alley settled on a farm near the Noroo school and accumulated considerable property. But a chain of unfortunate circumstances befell them and with fires, droughts and the panic of 1893 they suffered considerable financial loss. In connection with his general farming, Mr. Alley engages extensively in stock raising, in which he has had much success, making a specialty of Duroc-Jersey hogs, also maintaining quite a herd of dairy cattle.

Like his ancestors, J. L. Alley is a Democrat in politics. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias, and was master of the Milford lodge for three years. His father



also a Mason. While Mr. Alley does not own land, he is what might be called a large farmer, and is one of those men who may be depended upon to regain his fortune. He is well known and well liked in the community in which he resides and is held in high esteem.

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#### LAWRENCE O. BLACKMORE.

The late Lawrence O. Blackmore, scion of an old American family, was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, in 1818, the son of Owen W. and Eliza (Fulton) Blackmore, and the eldest of a family of six children. In 1835 Owen Blackmore and his family came to Decatur county and settled on a farm in Washington township, now owned by W. E. Jackson, where they lived for several years, later moving to another farm which they purchased. A man of strong and generous characteristics, Owen Blackmore was highly respected. He was a Republican and a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He died in 1885.

Lawrence O. Blackmore was born in Kentucky in 1818, and in 1840 was married to Elizabeth Finley, who died in 1842. In 1844 he married, secondly, Nancy Jane Houston, to which union was born one son, James Blackmore. Mr. Blackmore's second wife died in 1846, and in 1848 he married Frances W. Wallace, a daughter of John and Jane (Quigley) Wallace, the former of whom was a native of Maryland, the scion of an old and wealthy family of that state, who came to this county with his family from Rockridge county, Virginia, in 1837. To this third marriage seven children were born, namely: Mrs. Eliza Jane Smiley, the widow of George W. Smiley; Lawrence O., of Clay township, this county; Sarah H.; Samuel Edgar, of Shelby county; Elisha W., deceased; Lenora Anne, who died in infancy, and Mrs. Frances Olive Crawford, the wife of Doctor Crawford, of Milford. Of these children Miss Sarah H. Blackmore owns ninety-six acres of gently undulating farm land and lives in the old ancestral home of the Blackmores, called "The Pines." She was born on August 20, 1852.

Lawrence O. Blackmore was one of the substantial citizens of Decatur county and was highly respected. One of his strong characteristics was his generosity. He reared a large family, but was always helping others who were less fortunate than himself. He was a Republican in politics and a member of the Methodist church. He was a man of strong convictions and of great culture and wide information, possessing a great love for his family.

He died on September 18, 1893, and his passing was widely and sincerely mourned. He was a man who always saw the higher side of life and his daughter, Sarah Blackmore, accounts for his sturdy traits of character as having been inherited from his father's family, and for his refinement and culture as having been inherited from his mother's family.

Of Owen W. Blackmore, it may be said that he was born in Maryland or Virginia in 1793. His father's Christian name is not known, but his mother's maiden name was Mary Wilson. She was a daughter of John Wilson, a native of Maryland, of English origin, members of a wealthy and distinguished family that owned a great deal of land where Washington, D. C., now stands. John Wilson was a Federalist in politics and a man of large mold, both mentally and physically. He was one of the patriots of his time, strong in his convictions and a natural leader of men. He owned a palatial home and a vast estate in Maryland. It is said that he owned so many slaves that he did not know all of them. He was the father of a large family, of whom Mary Wilson, the grandmother of Miss Blackmore was one.

About 1816 Owen W. Blackmore was married in Kentucky to Eliza Fulton, daughter of David and Nancy (Rankin) Fulton, who was born in 1798 and died in 1847, at the age of forty-eight. Her father, David Fulton, was born in 1771. The Fultons were an old and aristocratic southern family, distinguished in many lines of endeavor in which they engaged. Nancy (Rankin) Fulton, the great-grandfather of Miss Sarah Blackmore, was born in 1776, the year made historic by the declaration of American Independence. Her grave and that of her husband are enclosed by a stone wall in a field on the old Fulton farm in Shelby county, Kentucky, the only graves on the farm, the substantial old wall being a monument to the noble character of the deceased as well as a mark of the love of their descendants, who have too much reverence for the graves of their venerated ancestors to erect a more pretentious monument.

When Owen W. Blackmore was a mere lad his father died and his mother married a second time, which act so enraged her father and her brothers-in-law, that they kidnapped the lad and took him to Kentucky, where he grew to manhood.

On the old Blackmore farm in Clay township, Decatur county, now owned by Miss Sarah Blackmore, is a spot made historic by the "Hoosier School Master." Before the robbery recounted in that story, the robbers met at a place on Miss Blackmore's farm and she has seen the poplar fence rail which the robbers whittled while they were waiting. Miss Blackmore's

mother relates an interesting incident of Revolutionary days, a tradition handed down by her father. During the Revolution, John Wallace, then a little boy, was sent by his mother to town to buy a teakettle and to pay for this kettle he was given five hundred dollars in Continental money. John Wallace, the grandfather of Miss Blackmore, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and Owen W. Blackmore, her grandfather, was also a soldier in this war.

The Blackmores, the Fultons and the Wallaces, ancestors of Miss Sarah Blackmore, have been prominent in the life of this country and have added distinction and honor to Decatur county, in which many of the members of this family and of their descendants have figured so conspicuously.

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#### ESTILL A. GIBSON.

Very few young men living in Clay township, this county, are so well known as Estill A. Gibson, for many years a capable and successful teacher of Decatur county, who is now engaged in the mercantile business at Horace.

Estill A. Gibson was born in Grant county, Kentucky, on September 16, 1885, the son of William and Mary (Dunn) Gibson, natives of Grant county, Kentucky, the former of whom was born there about 1857, and who came to Decatur county in 1905, purchasing a farm near Burney, where he now lives in a pleasant, modern home. William Gibson is the son of William Gibson, Sr., a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, who in his early life removed to Kentucky and became an intimate companion of Davy Crockett, with whom he experienced many thrilling adventures in different parts of the country. William Gibson, Sr., accompanied Davy Crockett on his famous western trip and made many exploring expeditions with him. He was a Democrat in politics and a man of great natural ability, being especially well informed on Biblical literature and kindred topics. Although a great reader he had had few educational advantages. Born in 1810, he died in 1896, leaving five children, of whom William Gibson is the eldest. The latter was born in Kenton county, Kentucky, in 1857 and, like his father, endured the hardships of pioneer life. He had not the advantages of a liberal education, but was a natural lover of reading and educated himself largely by home study, possessing today a wide knowledge of historical literature, having read a great deal of "Ridpath's History of the World." As was his father, William Gibson is a Democrat and has always been interested in politics. He is a mem-

ber of the Baptist church, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and active both in the church and the lodge. In 1884 he was married to Mary Dunn, who was born in 1859, the daughter of James Harry and Caroline (Barker) Dunn, natives of Kentucky, members of old and well-established families in Harrison county, that state, the Barkers being a very prosperous family, in whose veins flowed a strong strain of the blue blood for which the state of Kentucky is famous, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Estill H., the subject of this sketch; Ernest, who lives in Minnesota; Caroline, the wife of Clyde Layton, of Decatur county; Cora, who died in 1897, and Floyd, who is at home.

Beginning life for himself at a very early age, Estill A. Gibson has attained a practical and broad education by dint of hard work and in the face of many discouragements. He received the rudiments of an education in the common schools of Grant county, Kentucky, later attended the Williamstown high school and, since coming to Indiana, the Marion Normal School. He began teaching in 1903 in Kentucky and after his first term attended the University of Kentucky at Lexington. After teaching another year in Kentucky he came to Decatur county with his parents in 1906, and began teaching in Decatur county in the winter, attending normal schools in the summer. After teaching for nine consecutive years he abandoned the profession and entered the mercantile business at Burney. After being thus engaged for a short time, he sold his store at Burney and moved to Horace, where he is now engaged in business and is doing very well.

In 1908 Estill A. Gibson was married to Stella E. Porter, the daughter of Mathias R. and Mary S. (Sturgis) Porter. Mathias R. Porter was born in Decatur county in 1848. At the beginning of the Civil War he enlisted in the Seventieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in which he served for three years, being a participant in numerous severe engagements. He finally was severely wounded and was brought home. Mrs. Gibson was one of several children born to her parents. Her sister, Georgia, married Orlando Robinson, of Horace. She herself was born on July 16, 1884, in Clay township and was educated in the common schools of Decatur county and at the State Normal School at Terre Haute. When seventeen years old she, too, began teaching, and taught for nine terms. To Mr. and Mrs. Gibson one child has been born, a son, Rupert Porter Gibson, who was born in 1912.

Like his father, E. A. Gibson has always been interested in politics and is one of the leaders in the councils of the Democratic party in this county. He has a good business in the town of Horace, where he lives, and is highly spoken of by the people of that community.



## WILLIAM DAVIS.

Not many years ago in Clay township, this county, a young farmer began his married life with less than one thousand dollars and within seven years he owned five hundred and thirteen acres of land, all of which he made and paid for himself. This enterprising farmer is William Davis, a well-known citizen of Clay township, whose home farm of two hundred and eleven acres lies eight miles southwest of Greensburg.

William Davis, the son of George T. and Mary (Case) Davis, was born in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, in 1848, and lived on the old home farm until twenty-one years of age. George T. Davis was a native of Franklin county, born in 1818, who died on January 17, 1909, at the age of ninety-one years. He came to Decatur county when a young man, after his marriage, and settled on a farm in Sand Creek township, where he spent the rest of his life. He was a successful farmer and accumulated considerable land, being the owner of one hundred and eighty acres at the time of his death. George T. Davis was the son of Robert Davis, who came to Decatur county in pioneer times and entered three eighty-acre tracts, which, later in life, he gave to his children. At the time this land was given to George T. Davis by his father he set out some locust trees that are still standing. A member of the Whig party until 1856, George T. Davis became a Republican upon the formation of the latter party. He was a member of the Masonic lodge at Westport and of the Baptist church at Letts. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, of whom seven are still living, namely: William, the subject of this sketch; Isane, of Iowa; Thomas C., of Tennessee; Martha, of Vernon, Indiana; John, of Letts Corner, this county; Lavina, who married John Jerris, of Marion township, this county, and Mrs. Hannah Brown, of Connersville, Indiana.

In 1870 William Davis was married to Harriet Hunter, the daughter of Lewis and Mirah (Martin) Hunter, both natives of Dearborn county, this state, the former of whom was born in 1806 and died in 1859, and the latter of whom was born in 1814 and died in 1848. Lewis Hunter moved from Dearborn county to Jennings county in an early day and spent the rest of his life in that county. After the marriage of Mr. Davis, in 1870, he and his wife lived on a farm and he worked by the month. After a few years of hard and diligent labor, he rented a farm and finally purchased two hundred and ninety-nine acres, paying seven or eight thousand dollars for the property. He paid this debt off in seven years and then purchased two hundred

and thirteen acres more, having come to own, within seven years, five hundred and thirteen acres. At that early period he received no financial assistance and was not benefited by any legacies. He has made his money from the live-stock business, buying, feeding and selling cattle and hogs. For years he was a large dealer in live stock and some weeks shipped between five and ten thousand head of hogs, mostly to Louisville.

To William and Harriet (Hunter) Davis two children have been born, James G., who farms the home place, married Mrs. Dora Stout, widow of Albert Stout, and daughter of Herman Myer, and has three children, George W., Mary and Denzel D., and Nora, who married Ralph McGee, of Greensburg, a farmer, and has one child, a daughter, Orpha. Mr. and Mrs. Davis are members of the Baptist church and are regarded as among the leaders in the good works of their community.

Mr. Davis is a Republican and is a strong believer in the Republican principles. He was beaten by only one vote for trustee in Sand Creek township, at a time when the normal majority of the opposition was one hundred. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Greensburg. First and last a stockman, Mr. Davis feeds about fifty head of cattle every year and has two silos. The land is gently rolling and originally grew sugar trees and walnut, as well as yellow poplar. Broad-minded in his views and charitable in his attitude towards others, Mr. Davis is always ready to help the unfortunate and is a good, strong, substantial citizen.

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#### LAWRENCE O. BLACKMORE.

On a beautiful farm of three hundred acres, one-half mile east of Milford, in Clay township, Decatur county, there live Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Blackmore, among the most prominent and influential residents of the county. They are well-to-do farmers, surrounded with all of the comforts and many of the luxuries which life in the country now so generously offers. Mr. and Mrs. Blackmore are very well circumstanced and spend their winters in Florida.

L. O. Blackmore, son of Lawrence O. and Frances (Wallace) Blackmore, was born in 1850 on the old Blackmore homestead in this county. The late Lawrence O. Blackmore was the son of Owen W. and Eliza (Fulton) Blackmore, the former of whom was born in Maryland or Virginia in 1793, his mother, a daughter of John Wilson, a native of Maryland, of English

origin, member of a wealthy and distinguished family that owned a large amount of land where Washington, D. C., now stands. Eliza Fulton was the daughter of David and Nancy (Rankin) Fulton, of an old and aristocratic southern family, distinguished in many lines of endeavor. On another page of this volume there is presented in detail, in a memorial sketch relating to the late L. O. Blackmore, father of the subject of this sketch, a history of these interesting families, to which the reader is respectfully referred in this connection.

The late Lawrence O. Blackmore was the eldest of a family of six children. He married Frances W. Wallace, daughter of John and Jane (Quigley) Wallace, the former of whom was a native of Maryland, who came to this county with his family from Rockridge county, Virginia, in 1837, and to this union were born seven children, as follow: Mrs. Eliza Jane Smiley, widow of George W. Smiley; Lawrence O., the subject of this sketch; Sarah H.; Samuel Edgar, of Shelby county; Elisha W., deceased; Lenora Ann, who died in infancy, and Frances Olive, the wife of Doctor Crawford, of Milford.

L. O. Blackmore was educated in the common schools of Decatur county and spent one year at Holbrook Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio. He was about ten years old when the Civil War broke out and, near the close of that struggle, tried to enlist, but his father, finding out his intentions, promptly put him to work hoeing corn, which soon dissipated his desire for warfare. When about twenty-five years old, Mr. Blackmore began life for himself. He rented land for six years and during that time accumulated some two thousand dollars, which sum he paid on the farm of one hundred and twenty acres. As a matter of fact, he spent one thousand dollars in improvements and thus had only a one-thousand-dollar equity in the farm, which cost him six thousand dollars. Mr. Blackmore has added to this original tract until he now owns three hundred acres, having paid from fifty to one hundred and ten dollars an acre for his land. His money has been made from corn, hogs and cattle, and he now has an admirably improved farm. A partner whom he took into the farming business eight years ago is now worth at least ten thousand dollars, a distinct evidence that agriculture on the Blackmore farm is being made to pay.

In 1877 L. O. Blackmore was married to Fannie C. O'Byrne, the daughter of Henry O'Byrne, a native of Ireland, who came to America and settled in Franklin county. Mrs. Blackmore's mother, who was a Barbour, was a native of that county. Henry O'Byrne was a successful business man and farmer and died at the age of about fifty years, being the owner of about twelve hundred acres of land. Mrs. Blackmore spent five years in the Oxford

Female College at Oxford, Ohio, and was graduated in 1875. Upon her graduation she went to Indianapolis and spent two years there, at the end of which time she and Mr. Blackmore were married. She is a cultured and refined woman and a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Milford, to which church Mr. Blackmore also is attached, they being regarded as among the leaders in all good works thereabout. Mr. Blackmore is a Republican and takes an intelligent interest in the political affairs of the county. He is a stockholder in the Third National Bank at Greensburg and prominent, not only in agricultural circles, but in the financial circles of this county. There are no more highly respected citizens living in Decatur county than Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Blackmore, and they are held in the highest esteem in their large circle of friends.

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#### JAMES HOWARD.

One of the successful farmers, strong and conservative characters, good citizens and ardent Democrats of Clay township, this county, is James Howard, who owns sixty-six acres of splendid land in that township, three miles northwest of Burney and three miles southwest of Milford.

James Howard was born in Noble township, Shelby county, Indiana, in 1861, the son of John and Mary (Pullen) Howard, the former of whom was a native of Butler county, Ohio, the son of Aaron Howard, a native of Ohio. John Howard came to Decatur county when he was eight years old with his father, Aaron, who settled on a farm in Washington township, west of Greensburg, known as the Ralston farm. Aaron Howard was a prosperous farmer and a well-known citizen of this county. For twelve years he served as county assessor and, being an ardent Democrat, he was prominent in the councils of his party. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom John Howard, the father of James, was the second child. He was born in Ohio and grew to manhood on his father's farm in this county. When about twenty-five years old, he was married to Mary Pullen, a native of Virginia, born in 1831, the daughter of William and Martha (Hogue) Pullen, both natives of that state. William Pullen, a farmer by occupation, came of a good old Virginia family, all of whom were Democrats of the old school.

To John and Mary (Pullen) Howard were born seven children, namely: Dennis, who is a resident of Shelbyville, this state; James, who is the subject



of this sketch; Sarah Jane, who is the wife of John Moore, of Johnson county, Indiana; Jessie, who lives in Michigan; Mattie, who is the wife of William R. Braden, of Shelby county, Indiana; Othor, also a farmer of the same county, and Oscar, who also lives in that county.

After being reared to manhood on his father's farm, James Howard was married in 1882 to Ida Alley, a daughter of Samuel and Nancy (Selby) Alley. A history of the Alley family is presented elsewhere in this volume in the biographical sketch relating to J. L. Alley. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Howard began life on a farm in Shelby county, where they lived until about 1885, when they moved to the farm upon which they now live. To them four children have been born, two of whom are living and two deceased, namely: Opal, who married Conda Steward, of Bartholomew county, this state, and has one son, Howard Donald, who was born on October 12, 1914; Alley, who died at the age of four years; a child who died in infancy, and Oscar, who lives at home with his parents. Mr. Howard is very proud of his only grandchild and especially proud because Howard Donald is a very lively little youngster.

James Howard is a Democrat, stanch and true to the mandates of his party organization and the principles for which his party stands. He has always a deep interest in politics and is one of the leaders of his party in Clay township. Mr. and Mrs. Howard and family are members of the Christian church at Milford. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Geneva, in Shelby county. Progressive, public-spirited, liberal and broad-minded, he has contributed in a rather large measure to the material advancement of this county and no man is more popular in the neighborhood where he lives than he.

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#### JOHN W. CORYA.

Practical industry and good management never fail to bring success, carrying the worker onward and upward and bringing out the strong points of his character at the same time, acting as powerful stimulants to the efforts of others. It is always refreshing to consider the character of self-made men, among whom may be mentioned John W. Corya, a prosperous Clay township farmer, living three and one-half miles northwest of Burney and three and one-half miles southwest of Milford, who owns four hundred and seventeen acres of splendid farming land.

John W. Corya was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, in September, 1858, the son of Francis M. and Lucinda (Phillips) Corya, the former of whom was a native of that same county, the son of Philip and Isabella (Boicourt) Corya. Philip Corya was a native of Pennsylvania, of German origin, who was brought when a mere lad to Jefferson county, Indiana, by his parents, who were well-respected German farmers. Isabella Boicourt was a native of Decatur county and the Boicourt family is of French extraction. Although Lucinda Phillips's mother, who was a Wilson, was a native of this county, her father was a native of Ireland, reared as a Protestant.

John W. Corya left home when about six years old to live with an uncle in Jefferson county, Indiana, where he remained until thirteen years of age, at which time he began life for himself by working in a store in Jennings county. After working in this store as a clerk for seven years and learning the principles of good business, he spent a short time in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the produce commission business. He then went to Colorado, where he was employed in gold and silver mines, running a pack-train of burros, carrying ore and supplies to and from the mines.

The Marshall Pass Basin of Colorado every winter fills with snow and until late in the spring is impassable. While engaged in running the pack-train, in the spring of 1883, John W. Corya, then a young man of twenty-five, went through this pass with his train of burros earlier in the season than anyone before him had ever been able to make the trip. After spending five years in the mines, he returned to Indiana and settled in Jennings county, where he was married to Flora Galloway, the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Parker) Galloway, the former of whom was a native of Indiana, whose father came from Kentucky, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Enoch Parker, a native of Jennings county, Indiana, a member of an old and established family of that county.

After his marriage, in 1887, John W. Corya located at North Vernon, this state, where he engaged in the produce business. One year later he and his wife went to West Virginia and after staying there but a very short time, came back to Indiana and settled in Decatur county. One year later they moved to the northwestern part of Missouri, where Mr. Corya rented a farm, on which they lived for three years. There he was fairly successful but eventually he returned to Jennings county, Indiana, and for ten years was engaged in the mercantile business. Upon selling out this business, in December, 1902, he came to Decatur county and purchased a farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Clay township from Joseph Burney. The buildings on the farm were dilapidated and hardly fit for human habitation. There

were scarcely any fences and the farm was very much run down in every particular. That was twelve years ago and today John W. Corya owns four hundred and seventeen acres of land and has erected on the farm a splendid home of nine rooms, modern in every respect and costing five thousand dollars. He has two large and substantial barns, one sixty by one hundred and twelve and the other fifty by sixty-four feet. Besides the home farm in Clay township, Mr. Corya owns a farm of one hundred and thirty-seven acres of well-improved land in Bartholomew county.

When John Corya started on the farm in Clay township, he had twelve thousand dollars and today he could "cash out" any time for more than fifty thousand dollars, success having crowned his efforts in these short twelve years. It may be said in passing that neither Mr. Corya nor his wife has inherited to exceed five hundred dollars, their large success being the result of their own hard work and prudent management. Mr. Corya has specialized in breeding Western lambs and usually feeds about one thousand head of sheep. He is preparing to extend his operations so that he may feed fifteen hundred or more. There are two silos on one of his farms, a great help in feeding.

To John W. and Flora (Galloway) Corya four children have been born, namely: Delta, who was born in North Vernon in 1888 and who lives at home; Horace, who was born in Jennings county in 1893 and who is also at home; Russell, born in Jennings county in 1889, and Erma, who was born in 1906, died in 1907.

There are no more staunch or true Republicans living in Decatur county than John Corya, who is steadfast to the principles of the party of Abraham Lincoln and who believes that party is eminently capable of administering the affairs of this government. He is regarded as one of the leaders in the councils of the Republican party in Decatur county. Formerly, Mr. Corya was a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at North Vernon. Russell Corya, the youngest son of Mr. Corya, who is now a student of the agricultural course at Purdue University, won a prize for the best acre of corn raised in Clay township in 1914.

John Corya is a man of more than ordinary ability. He has a liking for and an aptitude for politics. Being a pronounced optimist in his views, he is naturally popular with his neighbors and fellow citizens. With all of his public interests he is, nevertheless, a man of strong domestic temperaments and devoted to the interests of his family, all of whom are held in high esteem throughout the section of the county in which they reside.

## JAMES A. PUMPHREY.

James A. Pumphrey, the proprietor of "Spring Dale Farm," comprising one hundred and ninety-five acres of fertile land located one and one-half miles north of Burney and one and one-half miles southwest of Milford, is one of the prosperous citizens of Clay township, this county. This farm not only lies in the garden spot of the great Hoosier commonwealth, but is itself, in fact, one of the most desirable farms in the community. No better land is to be found anywhere. "Spring Dale Farm" is so named from a fine spring which never freezes and never goes dry. The picturesque springhouse was built over this spring more than a half century ago. The farm was entered by Captain Lowry, who came to Decatur county in 1823. It has changed hands only twice since that time, once when Captain Lowry deeded it to the late William Pumphrey and the second time when the latter deeded it to his son, James A., the subject of this sketch.

James A. Pumphrey was born on the old Pumphrey homestead in Clay township in 1863. He grew to manhood on that farm and was educated in the district schools of Clay township, after which he began the business of life for himself.

On February 7, 1884, James A. Pumphrey was married to Mary E. Mandlove, a daughter of William A. and Nancy J. (Edwards) Mandlove, the former of whom was the son of James and Sarah (Bean) Mandlove. James Mandlove, a native of Kentucky, was born in 1816 and died in 1862. His wife was born in England in 1820, the daughter of William and Sarah Bean. William Bean was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church in England, who immigrated to America late in life, when Sarah, the grandmother of Mrs. Pumphrey, was only two years old. The voyage required nine weeks and one of Sarah's sisters died and was buried at sea. James and Sarah Mandlove began life in Decatur county on a farm, after having settled in Clay township on the site of the present town of Burney. In that day Clay township was a dense wilderness, the few inhabitants marking the trails through the dense forests by "blazing" the ways, gashing the trees to mark the little-traveled routes. The grinding for the household was done at the Critser mill on Clifty creek, which mill is still standing and still in operation. James Mandlove was one of the prominent citizens of Decatur county during his day, at one time being rated as the wealthiest man in the county. He died in 1862, at which time he owned a large tract of land and a store at Milford which in that day was a thriving town. He was a Democrat and a member of the Methodist church.



After his marriage, Mr. Pumphrey and his wife moved to a farm owned by his father, which he rented. There they lived for about one year, when they moved to Burney, where he was engaged in the mercantile business for six years, at the end of which time he sold the store and purchased "Spring Dale Farm." The original tract comprised only fifty-five acres and was bought in 1891, since which date Mr. Pumphrey has added to the farm until it now comprises one hundred and ninety-five acres.

To James A. and Mary E. (Mandlove) Pumphrey have been born two sons, Edgar Ray and William Falonzo. Edgar Ray Pumphrey was born on October 31, 1888, and was educated in the common and high schools of Decatur county. After graduating from high school in 1907, he entered Purdue University and was graduated from the electrical engineering department with the class of 1911. He now holds a responsible position with the Fairbanks-Morse Electric Company, of Indianapolis. He is a popular young man and familiarly known in this community as Ray. William F. Pumphrey, who was born on May 1, 1892, was educated in the common and high schools of Decatur county and later attended the Winona Technical Institute at Indianapolis. He is an automobile expert, engaged in his calling at Hope, Indiana.

James A. Pumphrey is a stanch and true Democrat and is a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford and of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Burney. Mr. Pumphrey is a stockholder in the Burney State Bank and is regarded as one of the most substantial residents of that community, he and his family enjoying the highest esteem of all who know them.

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#### EDWARD PUMPHREY.

Practical industry never fails to bring success, especially when consistently and wisely managed. It carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulant to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means, the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense. The everyday life, with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunity for acquiring experience. Edward Pumphrey, a well-known farmer, scion of an old family in Decatur county, living a mile north of Burney, is one of the most substantial citizens and farmers of Clay township.

Edward Pumphrey was born on the old Pumphrey homestead in Clay

township, this county, in 1869, the son of William and Loduska (Jewell) Pumphrey, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky, the son of Andrew Pumphrey, whose family, of English origin, emigrated to Kentucky in pioneer times. Andrew Pumphrey emigrated to Decatur county at an early day in the settlement of this section and located in Clay township, west of where Burney is now situated. He was a well-known and successful farmer, a Democrat in politics, and well respected. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom William, the father of Edward, was the fourth in order of birth. William Pumphrey grew to manhood on his father's farm and began life for himself at the time of his marriage to Loduska Jewell. They settled on a farm which William Pumphrey owned and gradually added to this tract, until at the time of his death, when eighty years of age, William Pumphrey owned thirteen hundred acres of land, all in Clay township. He was a very successful farmer and business man, a Democrat in politics and a member of the Methodist church. A man of decided convictions and moral courage, he was more than the ordinary type of citizen. Generous in his impulses, he had a host of friends in this county, where he was favorably known. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, namely: James A., Francis M. and Edward P., residents of this county; William P., a resident of Shelby county, this state; Doad P., deceased; a child who died in infancy; Elizabeth, who married Frank Alexander; Mrs. Fannie Miner, of Decatur county; May, who married Clyde Elliott, and Josephine, who married Earl Littell and lives in Indianapolis.

Educated in the common schools of Clay township, Edward Pumphrey began life for himself after his marriage in 1890 to Jennie Johnson, the daughter of William and Lucretia Johnson, the former of whom was a prosperous farmer of Jackson township, a native of Ohio, and well known and highly respected by the citizens of this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey have a lovely little home and enjoy life. He is a progressive broad-minded citizen, well known and highly respected. A stanch Democrat, he has always taken a prominent part in the campaigns of his party, especially in Clay township. Between 1905 and 1909 he was trustee of Clay township and was very successful in the management of the township's business, having retired from office with the respect and confidence of all the people. Mr. Pumphrey is a stockholder in the Third National Bank at Greensburg, and a member of the Masonic lodge at Milford. Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey are members of the Baptist church at Burney. He and his good wife believe that there are other things in life besides the accumulation of money. They believe in the enjoyment of life and they have enjoyed it so far as it has been possible to do so.

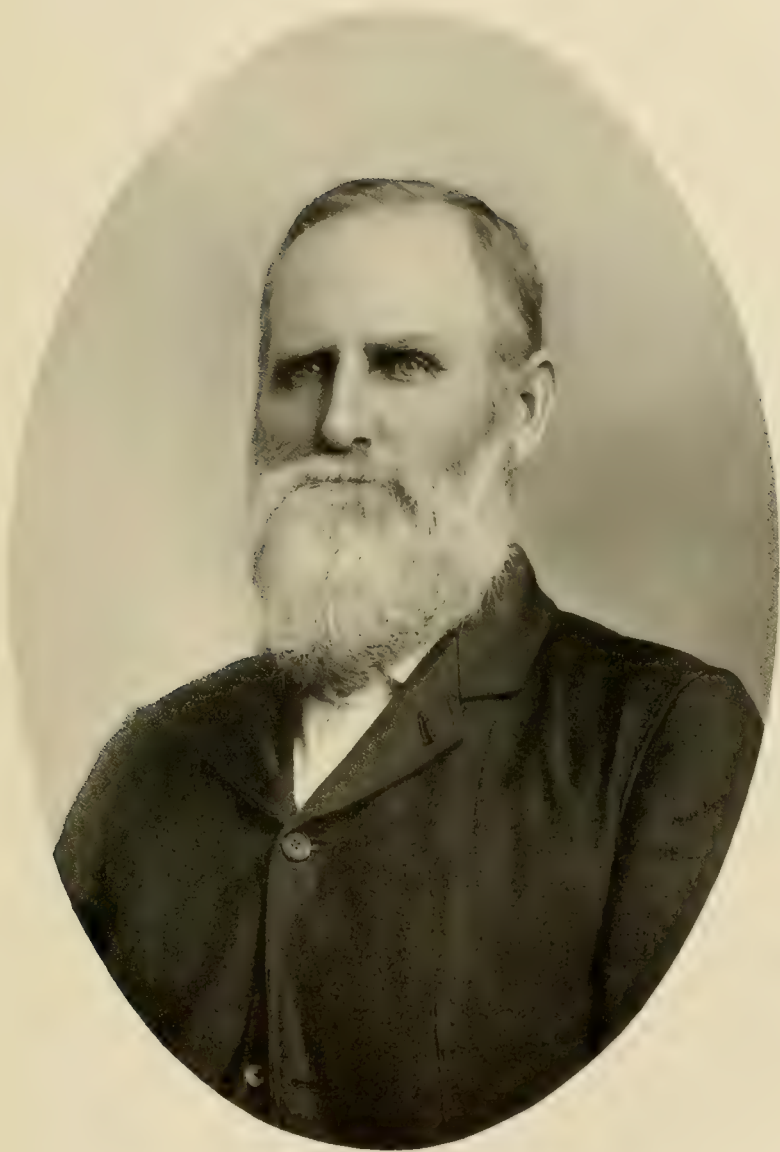
## JOHN WESLEY SPEARS.

Every community has, within its boundaries, men of exceptional ability and influence, to whom it points with pride and of whom it has every reason to be proud. Jackson township has many men who are well known throughout Decatur county by their success in agriculture, their prominence in business and their worth as citizens. Farmer, merchant, banker, public official and public-spirited man of affairs, John Wesley Spears, former county commissioner of Decatur county and now a retired merchant of Alert, is a man who has always stood high in the estimation of his fellows; whose judgment has always been recognized as pre-eminently sound and whose counsel has been widely sought in the affairs of the community where he has lived. He has to his credit from the standpoint of length of service, perhaps the longest record of business of any man living in Jackson township. From 1870 to 1908 he was continuously engaged as a merchant at Alert, during which period of nearly forty years, he naturally became well acquainted with the people, not only of Jackson but of surrounding townships and men learned to admire him for his many commendable traits of character.

Mr. Spears was born on March 23, 1847, in Switzerland county, Indiana. His father and mother were also natives of this county, the former, Abraham L. Spears, having been born in 1828 and died in 1896, and the latter, who before her marriage was Martha Jane Day, having been born in 1829 and died at the age of forty-two years in 1872. Subject's father was a blacksmith and merchant and was well known in the southeastern part of Indiana, having followed his trade for many years and also having conducted general stores at New Marion, Zenas, Hartsville and Holton, the last named in Ripley county, where he died. John Spears, who was the father of Abraham L. and the founder of the family in America, settled in Indiana after having immigrated to this country from England. He was a well-known farmer during his life.

Six children were born to Abraham L. and Martha Jane Spears, of whom three are now deceased: John Wesley, who was the eldest; Tillman Webster, who was born on March 1, 1849; Phoebe Elizabeth, who died in 1854, at the age of two years; Stephen D., who died in 1912; Abraham, who is a farmer near Alert; and Mrs. Lucinda Jane LaRue, who is the wife of Oliver LaRue, of Holton, Indiana, and William Aaron, who died at the age of twenty-six years.

During the boyhood of John W. Spears, the Hartsville Academy was



JOHN W. SPEARS.





perhaps the leading institution in this section of the state. After he had completed the course in the common schools near Zenas, where his family lived at the time, he attended Hartsville Academy for a time. During vacations, he assisted his father in the store and here learned the mercantile business. When he was twenty-two years old, he engaged in business with his father at Alert. This partnership continued for six years or until 1875, when the son purchased the interest of the father and operated it alone until 1908, at which time he retired from the active management of the store. In the meantime, he had erected a large brick building, in which the store is housed, to replace a frame building which burned in January, 1906. Not very long ago, he erected a new house in Alert, one of the most comfortable homes in this section. Mr. Spears has eighty acres of land in Jackson township, in Decatur county, and one hundred and fifty-nine acres in Bartholomew county. Although he himself has never been actively engaged as a farmer, his farm has proved a very profitable investment under the direct operation of tenants.

In 1888 at a barn raising in this community, Mr. Spears suffered a very painful and dangerous injury. While the barn was being raised, the plate breaking loose, fell to the ground, striking him on the back and breaking his thigh. Nevertheless he recovered from the injury, a very marvelous circumstance probably due to his wonderful vitality. Today he is still active and strong, although now about sixty-eight years old.

In 1914 Mr. Spears took a leading part in the organization of the Alert State Bank, which is capitalized at twenty-five thousand dollars and, when the directors were elected, Mr. Spears was chosen as one; later, when officers were elected, he was selected president of the institution. Although a very young institution, the bank is already doing a most satisfactory business. The vice-president of the institution is Dr. Thomas J. Norton and the cashier is Roy Campbell, formerly of Jennings county, Indiana. The directors include, besides Mr. Spears, Dr. Norton, James D. Anderson, John H. Denison, Samuel Kelly, William James Carson, of Jennings county, and George Beasley.

In 1914 five of the leading business men of Jackson township also organized the Alert Telephone Company with a capital of twenty-five hundred dollars and sixty subscribers. Mr. Spears became president of this company. The board of directors include Dr. Ray Bannister of Alert; Rev. Nicholson, Dr. Clarence L. Hill, a minister and farmer, who lives one mile north of Alert; J. W. Spears, and D. H. Pike.

On September 5, 1869, John W. Spears was married at Zenas to Mary L. Galloway, a native of Jennings county and the daughter of William Galloway. They have no children.

Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Spears are members of the Christian Union. Fraternally, Mr. Spears is a member of Alert Lodge, No. 395, Free and Accepted Masons. A Democrat in politics, he served eight years as a justice of the peace in Jackson township and in 1897 was elected a member of the board of county commissioners, on which he served for three years, giving the very highest measure of satisfaction.

It is a matter of interesting speculation to dwell on what men with the same ability as John W. Spears accomplish where the opportunities are wider. It is a matter of interest to consider what he might have accomplished had he by chance been reared in the city, where the opportunities for commercial and financial success are perhaps greater than they are in rural communities. Here, at least, Mr. Spears is a recognized leader in almost every form of enterprise, and there is good reason to believe that he might have become an equally successful leader in larger forms of enterprises in a larger community. He is first and foremost a man of character, and, as is usually the case, character is the determining factor in the life of an individual. There is no occasion for surprise that John W. Spears has enjoyed a large measure of success.

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#### CYRUS W. PUMPHREY.

Of the well-known farmers of Clay township, this county, Indiana, there should be mentioned Cyrus W. Pumphrey, who owns a farm of sixty acres one-half mile west of Burney, who was born in that township on October 24, 1865, the son of Andrew and Melvina (Cooper) Pumphrey, the latter of whom was born in Clay township, and whose parents died when she was a small girl. After their death she lived with the family of John P. Elliott, and received her education in Clay township. Andrew Pumphrey was a native of Franklin county, born on the banks of the White Water river. His father, Andrew Pumphrey, who was a native of Kentucky, left Franklin county with his family when Andrew, Jr., was only two years old, and came to Decatur county, settling on Clifty creek, in Clay township, where he entered land, to which he added from time to time until at the time of his death he owned about one thousand acres in that township.

Andrew Johnson Pumphrey was one of the unique characters of his day.

An ardent Democrat, he was prominent in the councils of his party. After his marriage to Elizabeth Lawrence in Kentucky, he moved to Franklin county, Indiana, and from Franklin county to Decatur county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their days. Both Andrew Johnson Pumphrey and his wife were of English origin, their parents having come from England. Elizabeth (Lawrence) Pumphrey was heir to a large estate in England, but due to the trickery of lawyers was unable to establish proof of her claim. Andrew Johnson Pumphrey died about 1876, and his wife about 1875, the former at the age of eighty-two years. They were the parents of fourteen children, of whom Andrew Pumphrey was the sixth child in order of birth. He grew to manhood in Clay township on the old home farm and when about thirty-two years of age was married to Melinda Cooper. They spent their entire married life on a farm situated on the banks of Clifty creek. Although Andrew Pumphrey was a prosperous farmer and a well respected citizen, he was not a man of great wealth. He was a Democrat and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist church. Rugged honesty was one of his strong characteristics. After suffering for sixteen years with rheumatism, which he contracted in middle life, he was freed of this malady when about sixty years old and enjoyed several years of good health. He was a man who was especially kind to his family, and children, of whom there were five, namely: May, who married James B. Critser, both now deceased; Cyrus W., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Drautz, who lives on the old home place in Clay township; Harvey, a resident of Hope, Bartholomew county, Indiana, and Mrs. Laura M. Applegate, who lives at Greensburg.

Cyrus W. Pumphrey lived on the old home farm until his marriage in 1894 to Cora D. Myers, daughter of John and Semantha (Stevens) Myers, who was born in Westport, Sand Creek township, and who there grew to womanhood. After her mother's death she lived with her grandmother until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey, after spending a short time in Burney, lived for three years on the old Andrew Pumphrey farm, at the end of which time he purchased twenty acres of land where he now lives. This land was without buildings of any kind, and Mr. Pumphrey was without funds, having purchased his land on his own note. Today he has sixty acres of as fine land as there is in Decatur county and a beautiful modern home. Ordinarily he feeds about two carloads of hogs every year. He is a stockholder in the Burney State Bank and gives thoughtful attention to the best interests of the community in which he lives.

A prominent Democrat of Clay township, Mr. Pumphrey several times



has been a delegate to the district conventions of his party and is keenly interested in politics. He is a progressive farmer and a good substantial citizen, well known and well liked by the people of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey are members of the Baptist church, are interested in all local good works and enjoy the most cordial esteem of all their neighbors.

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### MRS. BENJAMIN F. LITTELL.

Few names in this section of Indiana are better known than those of the Littells and the Collicotts and few families hereabout have exerted a wider or more beneficent influence upon the general welfare of the community than these two. By the marriage, thirty-two years ago, of Benjamin Franklin Littell, Jr., and Diantha Collicott there was effected a most happy union of these two honorable and influential families, and it is a pleasure on the part of the biographer to present here some of the salient points in the local history of these two interesting families, as a memorial both to the late Benjamin F. Littell, Jr., and to the Rev. John Collicott, of blessed memory throughout this section of Indiana.

Benjamin Franklin Littell, Jr., who died at his pleasant farm home in Washington township, this county, on August 7, 1907, at the age of fifty-eight years, was the son of the late Benjamin Franklin Littell, a well-known pioneer of Decatur county, who died in 1915, at his home in Greensburg, at the age of ninety-four years. The elder Benjamin F. Littell was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, the son of Benjamin F. Littell, who died during the cholera epidemic, leaving a widow and four children, Benjamin F., Elizabeth, Sarah Ann and Clara. The firstborn of these children, the only son, remained in Cincinnati until he had reached manhood's estate, at which time he married Jane Van Sant, daughter of Reuben Van Sant, one time treasurer of Hamilton county, Ohio, and moved to Mt. Pleasant, nine miles north of Cincinnati, where he made his home until 1856, in which year he moved with his family to Ripley county, Indiana, where he engaged in farming until 1863, in which year he came to this county, locating at Greensburg, where he erected a brick-making plant, in the operation of which he subsequently became very successful, being counted among the most substantial citizens of Decatur county. This brick plant is now owned and operated at Greensburg by its founder's son, George S. Littell, a biographical sketch of whom,

presented elsewhere in this volume, contains much additional information regarding the Littell family in this part of the state.

To Benjamin F. and Jane (Van Sant) Littell were born ten children, namely: Alanson, a retired merchant of Greensburg, this county; William T., a contractor in brickmasonry at Indianapolis; Benjamin F., deceased; Mrs. Adelia McCoy, housekeeper for her brother, George; George S., brick manufacturer, of Greensburg; Eliza, who married Phillip Weyman, of Greensburg; Samuel B., a Greensburg merchant; James S., a Greensburg merchant; Mrs. C. D. Tillson, of Greensburg, and Curtis R., of Washington, D. C. The mother of these children died in 1900, at the age of seventy-eight years, and the venerable father is making his home with his son, George, in Greensburg.

Benjamin F. Littell, Jr., was about fifteen years of age when his parents moved to Greensburg and he completed his schooling in that city. Upon reaching manhood he engaged in the grocery business in Greensburg, soon becoming one of the most popular and one of the most successful merchants in the city. The close confinement, however, was found to be detrimental to his health and he decided to live in the open and later purchased the beautiful farm on which his family now lives, and there spent the last twenty years of his life, his death occurring in 1907; the widow and six children being left to mourn their irreparable loss. These children, in the order of their birth, are: Elsie, who was graduated from the Greensburg high school, lives at home; John, who is very successfully managing the home farm, taking great interest in operating the same along the lines laid down by modern agriculturists; Lena, a successful milliner in Greensburg; Mrs. Charles Davis, of Greensburg, who has one child; Anna, a teacher in the public schools, and Della, who was graduated from the Greensburg high school with the class of 1915.

Mrs. Diantha Littell, widow of B. F. Littell, Jr., was born in Ripley county, Indiana, daughter of Rev. John and Ruth (Williams) Collicott, the former of whom was a native of North Carolina and the latter a native of New Jersey. When a young man, John Collicott emigrated from North Carolina to Indiana, locating in Ripley county, not far from the Decatur county line, where he became a successful farmer and influential citizen. He was also a local Methodist preacher and few men of his day in this part of the state exerted a wider or more beneficent influence upon their fellowmen than he. He was noted for his tender-hearted ministrations in the community in which he so long was so useful a factor, his hand ever being extended in behalf of those less fortunate than himself. The Rev. John Collicott possessed a most effective manner in the pulpit, his ability to impress

upon his hearers the beauties of the Word, and to impart to them the wonderful lessons contained therein, being recalled to this day among those whose privilege it was to "sit at his feet." His knowledge of the Bible was accurate and profound and his great desire to extend the message of the Gospel ever was heavy on his heart. He was a splendid singer, an accomplishment which added much to the effectiveness of his manner of conducting public services. During the trying days of the Civil War, the Rev. John Collicott was a tower of strength in behalf of the Union cause hereabout, and gave two of his sons for the nation's preservation. Few men in the community in which he labored are held in such high esteem, and it is but fitting that a history of Decatur county should carry this modest memorial. During the last fifteen years of his life Mr. Collicott was sadly crippled, but affliction did not dampen his ardor; the influence of his cheerful example under trial being radiated in all directions throughout the neighborhood of his home.

The first wife of Rev. John Collicott was Edna Goins, who died a few years after their marriage leaving no children. By his union with Ruth Williams, his second wife, there were born ten children, namely: Mary Jane, the wife of Wesley York, both deceased; Stephen, a soldier in the Union army, who went through the Civil War and died soon after the close of that great struggle, from the effects of the hardships he had endured; Henry, who also enlisted in the Union army and died during the early part of that struggle of measles contracted in the service; John, who died when eight years of age; Letitia, deceased; Angelina, deceased, the wife of Steward Ross, deceased, and the mother of Charles Ross living near Moore's Hill, Indiana; George, deceased; Eliza, deceased; Dora, deceased, and Diantha, the widow of Mr. Littell. The mother of these children was a woman of noble character, an able helpmate to her husband in his difficult ministrations; a woman of rare sympathy and understanding, who was greatly beloved throughout that whole countryside.

By his union with Hannah Thackery, the Rev. John Collicott was the father of the following children: Curtis, a well-known farmer of this county, who lives about three and one-half miles from Greensburg on the Vandalia pike; Jacob G., one of the best-known educators in the country, the present superintendent of the Indianapolis public schools; Harmon, who died in 1902, while pursuing his studies in the Greensburg high school, and Lettie, who married Charles Williams, a prosperous farmer of this county, whose home is near New Point. The mother of these children was a woman of refinement and education, who left the impress of her gentle character upon

all with whom she came in contact, being also a great help to her husband in his ministrations and especially during his last feeble years.

Mrs. Littell has a delightful home in Washington township, where, with her children, she is quite comfortably situated. Active in all the good works of the community and devoted to the care of her children her influence is exerted toward the promotion of all measures designed to further the best interests of the common good and she is held in the highest esteem by all who know her.

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### THOMAS E. DAY.

In the industrial annals of Decatur county there is no more notable example of the invariable rule that fitting rewards will attend faithful, energetic and industrious application to the duties of life, than is contained in a review of the life's history of the gentleman whose name serves as a caption for this interesting biographical sketch. Doing well what his hands found to do; faithful in all the relations of life, Mr. Day has risen from a position, which to one of less energy would have seemed disheartening indeed, to a position of commanding importance in the industrial life of Decatur county. Beginning life for himself upon attaining his majority without a dollar of capital, Mr. Day had the courage and the initiative to strike out on somewhat broader lines than most men so circumstanced and he has succeeded, as he deserved to have succeeded, so that now, in the vigor of his useful manhood, he has built up an industry which employs many men in useful and productive service in this county and through which there is distributed annually in wages no less a sum than fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Day's lumber manufacturing industry is one of the most important enterprises in Decatur county and a review of the life of the man who has built up this industry to its present extensive proportions is a very proper tribute to the energy which made possible the building up of this industry.

Thomas E. Day, manufacturer of hard-wood lumber and wholesale dealer in the same at Greensburg, Indiana, was born on a farm in Ripley county, Indiana, on December 22, 1868, the son of Thomas G. and Rebecca (Spenddiff) Day, both natives of England, born in the county of Kent, the former on August 3, 1841, and the latter on June 4, 1841.

Thomas G. Day came to America with his father, Thomas Day, in the year 1844, the family locating on the shores of Rockland lake in the state of New York, where the elder Day established a nursery for the culture of fruit



trees. The family remained in New York state until 1851, in which year they moved to Madison, Indiana, where the elder Thomas established another nursery on the edge of the city, where he spent the remainder of his life. It was in the town of Madison, this state, that Thomas G. Day grew to manhood, getting a start in life that enabled him in 1865 to buy a farm in Ripley county, on which he is still living, despite a succession of serious wounds and shocking experiences during the progress of the Civil War that certainly would have killed any man of less rugged constitution than that possessed by him.

Upon the breaking out of the war in 1861, Thomas G. Day enlisted in Company E, Third Indiana Cavalry, for the sixty-day service called for at that time. At the close of this service he re-enlisted for the term of the war and served until peace had been declared. He participated in many battles, being in some of the bloodiest engagements of the war, and twice was left for dead on the field of battle. He suffered all the horrors of the Confederate prison pens, having been an inmate of Libby prison, Belle Isle, Florence and Andersonville. Of the squad of one hundred men with whom he was incarcerated in the latter prison, he was one of but two who survived to reach freedom and regain their own lines. He was once captured by John S. Mosby, the guerilla chief, who, with his men, was masquerading as a Unionist. On this occasion Mr. Day dropped his carbine. Many years later he revisited the scene of his capture and was surprised as well as delighted to find the old army carbine in the hands of the farmer who had picked it up at the time of the capture. Needless to say he has preserved the recovered firearm as a priceless relic of his service.

Upon returning to the pursuits of peace at the close of the war, Thomas E. Day married Rebecca Spenddiff, who was the daughter of James Spenddiff, a native of the same neighborhood in England in which Mr. Day was born. James Spenddiff came to America and spent three years working for enough money to pay the passage of his family to this side. The family arrived in 1850, the passage over requiring nine weeks on a slow-sailing vessel, most of which time heavy storms were raging. The Spenddiffs located first in the Rockland lake district of New York, neighbors to the Days, and later came with the latter family to Indiana, also locating at Madison, where James Spenddiff and his wife spent the remainder of their lives.

To Thomas E. and Rebecca (Spenddiff) Day were born eleven children, eight of whom are still living, namely: Mrs. Harriet Livingston, of Greensburg, this county; Thomas E., the immediate subject of this sketch; Frank G., who lives at Cincinnati; Walter R., a farmer of Jefferson county, this

state; Mrs. J. A. Bovard, of North Salem, Indiana; Mrs. William Strubbe, of Versailles, Indiana, and Bertha and Cora, who remain with their father at the family home in Ripley county. The mother of these children died on April 10, 1908.

Thomas E. Day was reared on the paternal farm and received his education in the district schools of his home township and in the high school at Osgood. When he was twenty-one years of age he bought a farm of ninety-six and one-half acres in Ripley county, adjoining his father's farm, for which he went in debt to the amount of eleven hundred dollars. For nine years he taught school in his home county and by the time he had his little farm half paid for he had incurred an obligation for forty acres additional, adjoining, all of which he gradually paid out of his earnings as a teacher and from the profits on the farm. While engaged in farming he secured the county agency for a well-known brand of buggies of that time. The first year in which he held this agency he sold four buggies, but gradually increased his sales until he was finally disposing of as many as three hundred and twenty-five buggies annually in that part of the state. In the year 1893, Mr. Day engaged in the lumber business in Ripley county and has had phenomenal success. He has five mills for the manufacture of hard-wood lumber, one at Newpoint, one at Westport, two at Millhousen, all in this county, and one at Peach Orchard, Arkansas, in which he employs the services of fifty men. Mr. Day employs ten men at each of his mills and in the course of a year pays out as much as fifty thousand dollars in wages. Though retaining his farm in Ripley county, Mr. Day makes his home in Greensburg, to which city he moved in 1903, buying there a residence, where he and his family are very comfortably situated.

On April 10, 1892, Thomas E. Day was united in marriage to Lucy B. Horton, who was born and reared in Switzerland county, this state, the daughter of John M. and Maria A. Horton, who moved from Switzerland county to Ripley county, and to this union four children have been born, two daughters and two sons, as follow: Hazel, who is a member of the class of 1916, DePauw University, and who was honored while in her sophomore year by election to the office of president of the Young Women's Christian Association of the university and in 1915 vice-president of the student body and student annual; Mabel, who is a member of the class of 1917, same university; Thomas, aged ten, and Raymond, aged eight.

Mr. and Mrs. Day are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church at Greensburg and their children have been reared in the faith of that church. They are active not only in the many good works of the church to which

they belong, but are warmly interested in all movements having to do with the elevation of the ideals of the community at large and enjoy the highest respect and esteem of a large circle in and about Greensburg. Mr. Day is a Republican and takes a good citizen's part in local political affairs. He is a Mason and belongs to both the chapter and the council of that order.

Mr. Day is a hustling, energetic man who does things in a large way. It is his custom to buy land, cut the timber on the same and then sell the land. In the vicinity of Newpoint there is much land which he has treated thus which is worth three or four times what it was worth before the timber was removed. In 1912 Mr. Day went to Arkansas and bought timber to the amount of twelve thousand dollars, going in debt for the same, speedily discharging the debt from the proceeds of the timber which he secured from the tract. Mr. Day has the confidence of business circles throughout this part of the state and is held in the highest regard by all.

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#### WILLIAM E. JACKSON.

The best history of any community or of any county is that which deals especially with the lives and activities of its people, especially those who, by their own personal energy and consistent, unfailing endeavor, have forged to the front ranks of the citizenship of their county. In this brief review is to be found a record of the career of William E. Jackson, an enterprising farmer living four and a half miles northwest of Greensburg in Washington township, who owns two hundred and sixty-four acres of land which is a tangible monument to his own energy and good management.

William E. Jackson was born in 1866 on the old Jackson homestead, which he now owns, the son of William T. and Margaret (Miers) Jackson, the former of whom was born in Cincinnati about 1829 and who died in 1889 at the age of sixty years.

The late William T. Jackson was the son of William D. and Amelia (Hillman) Jackson, the former of whom was born near the mouth of the Chickahominy river in Charles City county, Virginia, on October 13, 1797. The family originally lived in York county, a few miles east of the Chickahominy river, a very unhealthy region. William D. Jackson's parents were stricken with malarial fever, and died leaving a large family of destitute children. The boys in the family were bound out to farmers in the neighborhood and to a life of hardship and toil and the girls were sent to the poor-

house. William D. Jackson was one of these boys and was compelled to work in the fields with negro slaves of his master under a cruel overseer. Being of Irish origin and of a fiery Celtic nature, he could not endure this life very long and one day crossed the James river and left the scene. After walking about thirty miles, he reached Petersburg and engaged himself to a tailor, thoroughly mastering the trade. In 1823 he married Amelia Hillman, daughter of Samuel Hillman, a trader and merchant, who kept a store at Crookes Ferry. In 1831, William D. Jackson and family emigrated across the Alleghany mountains in a covered wagon to the source of the Ohio river. They came down the river by boat to Cincinnati, where they landed with scarcely any of this world's goods, but with boundless courage and ambition. There William D. Jackson met Nicholas Longworth, a capitalist, and soon found work in the largest merchant-tailoring establishment in the city. His acquaintance with Mr. Longworth proved to be of great value to him, for he presently engaged in the real estate business and in a few years had accumulated a snug fortune, which in 1840 he invested in a farm of a quarter section in Fugit township, this county. He remained in Cincinnati until 1844, when he moved to his farm in Decatur county. In 1847 he sold his Fugit township farm for a profit and moved eight miles west of Greensburg, to a less settled and wilder section of the county, though the land was of a better quality and cheaper. At that time there were still many panthers, bears and wild cats in the forests and deer were abundant. Those were the days of the husking bees, log rollings, apple parings, barn raisings and countryside weddings.

In 1853 William D. Jackson sold his farm and moved to another farm two and one-half miles west of Greensburg, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a man of no ordinary character. His mind was cast in a large mold and, though uneducated, he achieved success. His brain was keen and alert and he was a deep, broad thinker. He was a patriot of the best type. When the Civil War broke out, though an old man, he urged his grandsons to go and do their duty. He was a lover of justice and hated all shams; of that high type of citizens which has made this country what it is, ever standing for the highest and best that life afforded.

William T. Jackson, son of William D. and Amelia Jackson and the father of William E., the subject of this sketch, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1829. After coming to Decatur county, his experiences were those of the average pioneer boy of the day. He was about eighteen years old when the family moved to this county. Later he was married to Margaret Miers, who was the daughter of Thomas Miers, one of the early settlers of Decatur county and one of the wealthiest and most prominent men of pioneer times. Will-



iam T. Jackson and his young wife began their married life on a farm in Clay township and became very prosperous, he becoming a large landowner. He did not confine himself to farming altogether but subsequently engaged in the mercantile business in Danville, Hendricks county, Indiana, in which he also was quite successful. He was a man of strong individuality and engaging personality, widely and favorably known throughout this section. Although reared a Democrat, he became a Republican. William T. Jackson was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and an officer in the grand lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Indiana. Margaret Miers was only fifteen years old when she was married to William T. Jackson. She died in 1912 at the age of seventy-eight years. They were the parents of six children, Mrs. Anna Pavy, James, deceased; Mrs. Adelaide Bonner, William E., the subject of this sketch; Charles, who died in infancy, and Harry. One can hardly wonder that the representatives of the Jackson family in this county have been successful. They can hardly wonder that William E. Jackson has achieved a flattering success as a farmer. The Jackson family has had the habit of success and William E. inherited that habit.

William E. Jackson was married in 1889 to Alta Moore, the daughter of B. F. and Anna (Bentley) Moore, the former of whom was a native of Decatur county, whose father was a native of Ohio. B. F. Moore was a successful farmer and a highly respected citizen of this county. He and his wife were the parents of four children: Edgar N., of Letts Corner; Mrs. Alta Jackson; Anna L., of Letts; and Luna Roszell of Decatur county. Mrs. Jackson was born on October 22, 1868, in Decatur county.

To William E. and Alta (Moore) Jackson have been born three children, Mary, born in 1897; Jessie, 1901, and Paul, 1904.

After their marriage in 1889, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson began the business of life on a very modest scale. He now feeds about one hundred and fifty thoroughbred Hereford cattle every year and has been very successful as a stock breeder, having specialized in black Poland-China hogs. William E. Jackson is a man who believes in quality, so far as live stock is concerned, this having been the secret of his success. He keeps his land in a high state of cultivation and it is well drained. The corn averages from seventy-five to eighty bushels to the acre.

William E. Jackson is a Republican and takes a deep interest in the political welfare of his country. He and his good wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. A progressive, up-to-date business man, he is broad and liberal in his views, respected and loved by his family, honored and admired by his neighbors.

## EVERETT L. DEUPREE.

Among the numerous sons of Decatur county who have gone elsewhere seeking fame and fortune, few have achieved a larger measure of well-deserved success than the gentleman whose name the reader notes above, a prominent attorney and financier of Indianapolis. Mr. Deupree was reared at Westport, this county, where he grew to useful young manhood; for a time having been a teacher in the schools of Westport, his excellent influence in that capacity being still a matter of pleasant memory there. He received his education in the schools of his home town and in one high school at Edinburg, this state, completing the same in Indiana State University, and was graduated from the Indiana Law School in 1904. Thus equipped he entered the practice of the law at the state capital and has been singularly successful. His sound judgment and thorough insight into matters of corporation law have given him a wide and influential clientele in the capital city and few attorneys there are better known or have a more lucrative practice than he. Though for many years he has been absent from the scenes of his boyhood in Decatur county, Mr. Deupree takes the liveliest interest in affairs hereabout, and it is but fitting that in a biographical history of the county in which his preparatory years were spent, proper mention should be made of his life and his labors.

Everett L. Deupree was born on December 24, 1880, on a farm near the town of Edinburg, in Johnson county, Indiana, a fine tract of land which was entered by his great-grandfather, Thomas Deupree, a Kentuckian, in 1821. Thomas Deupree was drowned in the Muscatatuck river while returning to his new Indiana home from Kentucky, he having gone back to his native state to settle his affairs there after having located his family on the Johnson county land grant. Thomas Deupree was succeeded by his eldest son, Abraham C. Deupree, who assisted his widowed mother, who before her marriage was Martha Hatchett, a member of a well-known pioneer family in Kentucky, and was instrumental in keeping the new homestead intact. Abraham C. Deupree married Hannah B. Carter, a descendant of the Carter who accompanied William Penn's Quaker colony to this country. Their son, William N. Deupree, married Martha A. Matthis, member of a pioneer family of Johnson county, and is still living on the old home farm, near Edinburg, in that county, at the age of eighty-two years. Thomas M. Deupree, son of this latter union, moved from Johnson county to the town of Westport, in this county, in January, 1885, and for many years was prominently connected

with the business life of that village, and is now, with his wife, living retired at Indianapolis. Thomas M. Deupree married Laura B. Pritchard, who was born near the town of Edinburg, in Johnson county, this state, daughter of John M. and Louisa (Robinson) Pritchard, both natives of Johnson county, the former of whom is still living, and to this union seven children were born, six of whom are still living, and of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest. For further information regarding this interesting family the reader is referred to a biographical sketch of Thomas M. Deupree, presented elsewhere in this volume, as well as to a sketch of Clarence C. Deupree, cashier of the Marion County State Bank of Indianapolis, presented on another page.

When Everett L. Deupree was four years of age, his parents moved from the Johnson county farm to the village of Westport, in Decatur county, and there the subject of this sketch grew to manhood. He received his primary education in the schools of Westport and at the age of thirteen entered the high school at Edinburg, from which he was graduated in 1898. He then attended the normal school at Greensburg, preparatory to a term of service as a teacher in the public schools, and for a time taught school at Westport. He then entered Indiana University and, was graduated from the Indiana Law School with the class of 1904. Upon receiving his diploma, Mr. Deupree formed a partnership for the practice of law with Edwin H. Emrick, with offices at Indianapolis, and the two have practiced together at the capital city ever since. They have a fine suite of offices in the Law building at Indianapolis and have built up a large and lucrative practice. During the past four or five years Mr. Deupree has given special attention to the practice of corporation law and has been very successful. Real-estate law also has appealed to him strongly and his practice in that particular department of jurisprudence has gained for him quite as wide a reputation for acumen and grasp of the niceties of this form of practice as has his practice of corporation law.

In addition to his extensive law practice, Mr. Deupree has found time in his busy career to enter largely into the practical side of the real-estate business. He and Edward Sourbier and Edwin H. Emrick some years ago organized the Sourbier-Emrick Realty Company, incorporated for the purpose of building and loaning money on real estate, and during the past two or three years probably no company in Indianapolis has built and sold as many houses as has this company. Mr. Deupree also is actively engaged in the financial life of the capital city. In May, 1912, he and J. M. Gaston, also of Decatur county, and J. L. Duvall organized the Marion County State Bank of Indianapolis, in which he is a director. For some years he also has been

a director in the Citizens State Bank of Indianapolis and is regarded as one of the most prominent of the younger financiers of the capital city. He also is a member of the board of directors of various other corporations in Indianapolis; secretary and director of the Home Insurance Agency of Indiana and vice-president and director of the Marion Securities Company, of Indianapolis.

On March 13, 1904, Everett L. Deupree was united in marriage to Edith Wheeler, who was born at Salem, Oregon, daughter of Hillis A. and Elizabeth (Linton) Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler, who was born near Millersville, Marion county, Indiana, is an old-time beef-packer and is well known as a partner in the Wheeler Dressed Beef Company of Indianapolis. His wife, Elizabeth Linton, was born at Wilmington, Ohio.

Mr. Deupree is a member of Indianapolis Lodge No. 13, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is past chancellor of Excelsior Lodge No. 25, Knights of Pythias, of Indianapolis; a member of Commanche Tribe, Improved Order of Red Men, and of the Marion Club in the same city. He is active, enterprising and energetic and during his residence in the capital city has gained a very wide and influential acquaintance, an acquaintance extending to all parts of the state, and has made a large number of very firm friends, among whom he and Mrs. Deupree are held in the highest regard, their admirable social qualities making them prime favorites in the extensive social circle in which they are regarded as among the prime movers. Though his active life prevents him from revisiting the scenes of his youth as often as he would like, Mr. Deupree has a warm spot in his heart for Decatur county and Decatur county people and is never more congenially engaged than when reviving pleasant recollections of "boyhood's happy hour" with old home folk.

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#### HON. ZACHARIAH THOMPSON RILEY.

It will be impossible for the reader of this volume of biography to escape the conviction that Decatur county originally was peopled by a most worthy class of pioneers, men and women of high ideals, pure motives and lofty purposes. In the main, these original settlers were soldiers of the American Revolution who pushed Westward after independence had been gained for the thirteen original colonies, or by their sons and daughters, who came west in response to the lure of the farther boundaries, seeking a wider horizon, a broader outlook for their adventuresome spirits; men and women of the true



pioneer breed who dared much, braving the perils of the wilderness, "blazing" the ways—their intrepid souls bent only on realizing the glorious vision of new homes and a wider freedom for those who should come after. Among these pioneer families there were few who added more to the renown of this section than the Riley family, or who were more largely responsible for the creation of stable conditions in this now well-established community. A worthy scion of this family, a man whom his neighbors ever delighted to honor, the late Hon. Zachariah Thompson Riley, was, in his day and generation, one of the most influential residents of Decatur county and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to set out some of the salient points in Mr. Riley's interesting career, together with a genealogical statement regarding his family.

Zachariah Thompson Riley was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, on April 22, 1828, and died at his home in Greensburg, Indiana, on May 17, 1907. He was the son of Williams Wright and Elizabeth (Thompson) Riley, natives of Fayette county, Kentucky, and early settlers in Decatur county.

Williams Wright Riley was born in Kentucky in 1804, the son of Gerard and Francis (Wright) Riley, the former born in Kentucky, the son of Ninion and Elizabeth (Taylor) Riley, and the latter born in North Carolina, daughter of John and Ann (Williams) Wright. John Wright was born in Fergusson county, Virginia, in 1728; enlisted from North Carolina in the patriot army for service during the Revolutionary War and died in Surrey county, North Carolina. Ninion Riley, who was born in Montgomery county, Maryland, in 1726, was the son of Solomon Riley, a native of the same county, whose father came to America in 1680. Ninion Riley married Elizabeth Taylor, of Montgomery county, Maryland, and emigrated to Fayette county, Kentucky, where he became prominent in the pioneer affairs of that section of the state and where he spent the remainder of his life.

Following his marriage to Elizabeth Thompson, Williams Wright Riley for a time lived in Clermont county, Ohio. In the year 1835 he and his wife came to this county, settling in the Williamstown neighborhood, where for a time they farmed, later moving to the village of Adams, this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were leaders in that part of the county, taking a prominent part in the social and civic life of the community. Active in the work of the Christian church, they were among the leaders in all good works in that part of the county and were held in the highest esteem by all. In 1856 Mr. Riley was elected to the office of justice of the peace for Clinton township and served in this magisterial capacity for many years, his judgments in such local disputes as arose within his jurisdic-

tion ever being accepted as final. He was an ardent Mason, having become attached to Bethel lodge of that order in Clermont county, Ohio, in 1839. He was a charter member of Greensburg Lodge No. 136, at Greensburg, this county, being the first junior warden thereof, and was the first worshipful master of the lodges of the same order at Milroy, St. Paul and Adams, in this county. He died in 1886 at his home in Adams and his passing was sincerely mourned.

To Williams Wright and Elizabeth (Thompson) Riley were born six children, of whom but one now survives, Mrs. Izora Jones, of Adams, this county. The others were the late Hon. Zachariah Thompson Riley, Mrs. Nancy Wyatt, who died in Kansas; John W., whose last days also were spent in Kansas; Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart and the late Dr. S. H. Riley.

Zachariah Thompson Riley learned the trade of cabinet-maker in the village of Williamstown, but later became a farmer and owned a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Clinton township. His native force of character made him a natural leader and he early took a prominent part in the affairs of his home community. He helped to organize the first Farmers Club in this county, in 1882, and was greatly interested in the betterment of farming conditions throughout this county, his influence in that direction undoubtedly producing wholesome and permanent results. He was elected to a seat in the Indiana state Legislature in 1876 and served in the lower house of the General Assembly in a manner very acceptable to his constituents. His first public service was in the capacity of justice of the peace in Clinton township, a form of service performed with the same regard for justice and equity as had marked his father's service in the same connection. He was a member of the Masonic lodge at Adams and ever took an active and prominent part in the affairs of that lodge. For a time he was engaged, in association with Charles Kemble, in the publication of a newspaper at Williamstown.

In 1853 Z. T. Riley was united in marriage to Frances McLaughton, who died in 1854, and in 1857 he married, secondly, Mary Jane Anderson, who was born near Springhill, this county, in 1835, the daughter of Samuel McClure and Mary (Meek) Anderson, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was born in Boone county and the latter in Fayette county, that state. Samuel McClure Anderson was the son of John and Ann (McClure) Anderson, natives of Virginia, who emigrated to Kentucky and came thence to this county where they took a prominent part in the pioneer affairs of the Springhill neighborhood. To Samuel McClure and Mary (Meek) Anderson were born seven children, all of whom now are deceased save Mrs. Riley, who is

living at her home in Greensburg, at the ripe old age of eighty years, honored and respected of all, and Sophia, who married Robert Tate and lives at Indianapolis. The other children were Mrs. Martha Ann Martin-Tanner, John C., who married Catherine Martin; Thomas M., James A. and Samuel Davis.

To Zachariah T. and Mary Jane (Anderson) Riley were born four children, Mary Libbie, who died at the age of sixteen years; Vessie, who lives at home with her aged mother; Dr. Eden T. Riley, a well-known and prominent physician of Greensburg, and one child who died in infancy.

Such lives as that of the late Zachariah T. Riley do not go out; they go on. In Decatur county Mr. Riley's influence was strongly impressed upon many lines of human thought and conduct, and invariably for the good. Therefore his influence persists, even though he long has been absent from the scenes which once knew him so well, and his memory long will be cherished in the community of which he once was so forceful a part.

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#### WILLIAM THOMAS BOICOURT.

Although Decatur county is famous throughout the great Hoosier state for its many old families, families whose ancestors have lived here for nearly a century, there is perhaps no family of prominence today in Decatur county, whose ancestors came to the great Hoosier commonwealth quite as early as the progenitors of William Thomas Boicourt, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Adams township, whose paternal ancestor, the founder of the family in America, was a soldier in General Lafayette's army and remained in this country at the close of the Revolutionary War. The grandparents of William T. Boicourt migrated from Virginia to this section about 1812, four years before Indiana Territory was admitted to the Union as a state.

William T. Boicourt was born on April 28, 1858, a mile and one-half east of Westport, the son of David and Mary (Holmes) Boicourt, the former born in June, 1822, and the latter born on October 25, 1828, both of whom died on September 25, 1898. The deaths of these worthy Hoosier pioneers occurred just thirteen minutes apart and their remains were interred in the same grave.

The late David Boicourt, who was a native of Clark county, Indiana, was the son of Felix and Anna Boicourt, natives of Virginia, who came to Indiana about 1812, thus having been among the very earliest settlers of this state. They first settled near Louisville, Kentucky, from which place they

crossed the river to Clark county, Indiana, and subsequently, in 1831, came to Decatur county. They entered government land in the southern part of the county, built a cabin and reared their family. The remains of Felix Boicourt are buried in Horseshoe Bend cemetery, east of Westport. Felix Boicourt was of French descent, his parental ancestor having come to America as heretofore stated, as one of Lafayette's soldiers. At the age of twenty he migrated from Virginia to Pennsylvania, settling near Pittsburgh, where he married Anna Elliot, of Puritan ancestry, who had migrated from Massachusetts to Virginia and later to Pennsylvania. From Pennsylvania they migrated to Kentucky and in 1812 to Clark county, Indiana. After settling in Indiana, they lived in a double log cabin near Millstone creek. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Absalom, who died in White county, Indiana, in 1892, at the age of eighty-two; Mrs. Julia Ann Stonesifer, who died near Fredonia in 1886, at the age of eighty-two; Mrs. Isabella Corya, who died in Jennings county at the age of seventy-nine; William, who died near Westport in 1904 at the age of ninety; Mrs. Christina Canfield, who died in 1901 at the age of seventy-eight; James, who died in Missouri in 1904 at the age of seventy-six, and Ruth, who married John Holmes and died in 1881.

Of the children born to David and Mary (Holmes) Boicourt, representatives of the second generation of the Boicourt family in Indiana, William, the subject of this sketch, is the fifth in order of birth. There were six children, four sons and two daughters, as follow: Aaron, who lives a mile and one-half southeast of Westport; Zachariah, of near Westport, who has gained a state-wide reputation in connection with the annual picnics held for sixteen years in the grove on his Decatur county farm; Mrs. Catherine Higgins, of Indianapolis; George, deceased, who resided one and one-half miles from Letts Corner; William T., the subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Rebecca Corya, who lives on the old home place one and one-half miles east of Westport.

The mother of these children was the daughter of James and Sarah Holmes, natives of Butler county, Ohio, who came to Decatur county, in 1821 and settled near Greensburg. The father helped to clear the land where the Decatur county court house now stands. After settling on a tract of land south of Greensburg, he spent his life as a farmer, principally in clearing his land. The Boicourt family were lifelong members of the United Brethren church, David having become a member in early boyhood. He was a Republican in politics. For more than fifty years, he was a miller by trade and operated the Horseshoe Bend water mill and afterwards a steam roller mill



at Westport, which finally was destroyed by fire. He had erected a mill at Horseshoe Bend, succeeding the grist-mill, and, in partnership with his brother, George, erected the Westport mill.

Educated in the old Patterson school house east of Westport, a famous old school which stood near his home; later at the old Binninger school northeast of Westport and still later at the Poplar Grove school two miles northeast of Westport, William T. Boicourt's early life was spent in doing the customary work which falls to the lot of the country boy. For two years he worked for his father in the flour-mill and then operated a stone quarry near Westport for four years. In this enterprise he lost considerable money, and in 1885 rented the farm upon which he now lives and which he now owns. Later Mrs. Boicourt inherited a farm and they have since improved the farm in many ways, making it one of the most beautiful country homes to be found anywhere in this section. The farm consists of two hundred and forty-five acres. They now have a thoroughly modernized home which has recently been remodeled. Mr. Boicourt is an extensive stockman and specializes in Duroc-Jersey hogs. In 1914 he sold one hundred and thirty head for two thousand and twenty-seven dollars and in the same year sold fifty-eight head of cattle, which brought him nearly forty-one hundred dollars. Mr. Boicourt also sold five hundred bushels of wheat in 1914. This farm, which is the old Boyer homestead, the homestead of Mrs. Boicourt's maternal grandfather, lies along the river in one of the most picturesque sections of Decatur county, the scenery in that section being beautiful.

On October 10, 1883, William T. Boicourt was married to Lydia Doggett, who was born at Little Flatrock, one mile east of Downeyville, on October 25, 1857, the daughter of Henry and Margaret Emily (Boyer) Doggett, the former of whom was born in 1824 and died on June 27, 1896, and the latter, born in December, 1826, and died on May 28, 1902, a daughter of Daniel Boyer, a native of Pennsylvania and an early pioneer and prominent citizen of Decatur county, who served as county commissioner for many years. Henry Doggett came to this state from Kentucky when eleven years old with his father, Henry Doggett, Sr., whose wife, who was Nancy Smith, of Virginia, was the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier. Henry and Margaret Emily Doggett were the parents of six children, namely: Mrs. Nannie Mobley, deceased; Lydia, the wife of Mr. Boicourt; Ira, who lives in Wyoming; Lafayette, who lives on the old Doggett homestead; Mrs. Loella Glover, deceased, and Frank, who died at the age of thirteen. It is an interesting fact that the first Henry Doggett mentioned in this genealogy married Nancy Smith, of Virginia, the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier.

To William T. and Lydia (Doggett) Boicourt have been born four children, as follow: Mrs. Vessa White, who was born on November 30, 1884, lives in North Dakota and has one child, Ethel Juanita; Forrest Leroy, January 9, 1887, died on May 7, 1898; Ora Hazel, November 11, 1889, who married Pleasant Redington, lives on the old home place and has one child, Walter Lavelle, and Mrs. Ethel Emily King, September 11, 1892, died on March 20, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Boicourt have adopted a son, William B., who was born on April 21, 1899, and who now lives at home with his fosterparents.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Boicourt was a candidate of his party in the campaign of 1914 for county commissioner, but was defeated with the remainder of the ticket. Mr. and Mrs. Boicourt are active members in the Baptist church and are held in high esteem in the neighborhood in which they have for years been regarded as among the leading factors, their influence ever being exerted in behalf of the general good.

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#### SOLOMON APPLE.

Solomon Apple, who for fifty-one years has lived on a farm in Adams township, this county, and who, during that time, has established his right to be regarded as one of the successful farmers and efficient, honorable citizens of Decatur county, belongs to a family which was established here in 1849. In his declining years, Mr. Apple is surrounded with all of the comforts which the countryside affords and has the satisfaction of knowing that his two living children, a son and a daughter, are well situated with regard to the material comforts of life. Long residence in one locality will either prove or disprove one's right to the respect of his fellow citizens and it cannot be denied that during the period of his long residence in this community, Solomon Apple has well earned his present enviable standing as an honored citizen.

Solomon Apple was born on October 20, 1839, in Montgomery county, Ohio, the son of Elias and Magdalena (Slifer) Apple, and was ten years of age when brought to this county by his parents. Elias Apple, who was born on January 26, 1817, and who died in July, 1900, was a native of Ohio, who came to Decatur county in the spring of 1849 and later settled in Rush county, still later going to Waldron, in Shelby county, where he died. His wife was born in February, 1817, and died in 1895. They were married on January 4, 1837, and were the parents of eight children, three of whom, Philemon, Mrs.

Lucinda Pence and Elias, Jr., are deceased. The living children are: Solomon, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Susan Grifff, who lives in Rush county; Mrs. Vandalena Isley, who lives in Illinois; Mrs. Elizabeth Lowe, of St. Omer, and Mrs. Sophia Thompson, of St. Paul, this county.

Solomon Apple, who lived at home with his parents during his youth and early manhood, was married on November 12, 1803, to Caroline Kelley, who was born in Rush county, this state, on January 27, 1843, the daughter of Ezekiel and Nancy (Ballard) Kelley, the former of whom was born on November 29, 1800, and died on August 4, 1879, and the latter of whom was born in 1811 and died on March 24, 1877. They were married in 1827.

After his marriage, Solomon Apple gave his father one thousand dollars for the first eighty acres of land that he owned and immediately set to work to clear the land. For a time he and his wife lived in a one-room log cabin, but later caused to be erected a large frame house, which eventually was succeeded by the fine brick house in which they live today. After a time, they were able to buy eighty acres across the road from Mr. Apple's brother's home and this farm was later presented to Mrs. Charles Allison, a daughter, after which they purchased another eighty-acre tract and presented it to their son, Daniel. At one time, therefore, they owned altogether two hundred and forty acres which has been reduced by the gifts to their two children to eighty acres of land. This farm, the original tract, is now equipped with all of the conveniences for farming, including a large bank-barn. The house may be seen from the roadside, in a beautiful location, surrounded by trees and shrubbery and set on a hill overlooking the roadway. On the farm is a natural gas well, from which is derived gas for light and fuel.

To Solomon and Caroline (Kelley) four children were born, namely: John W., born on April 15, 1865, and died on February 3, 1875; Daniel W., December 9, 1866, married Minnie Allison and has six children, Ethel, George, Gladys, Charles, Forrest and Caroline; Nina, December 9, 1874, married Dr. Charles D. Allison, of Illinois, and has four children, Nina, Mary, Charles and Caroline, and Nannie, October 28, 1877, died on March 13, 1912, married William Kelsoe and bore him one child, Russell, who has been reared by his grandparents.

Solomon Apple is a quiet and unpretentious citizen, a man who lays no particular claim to greatness and one who never boasts of his accomplishments or achievements. Though a Democrat, he has always been more or less independent in voting, since he believes that in this way he can best serve the purposes of good government, hence serving not only himself as a citizen

of the government, but his neighbors as well. The only office he has ever held is that of supervisor of highways. Mr. and Mrs. Apple are members of the United Brethren church at St. Omer and have been for many years. Both are possessed of strong religious feelings and are naturally governed by these feelings in their attitude toward the church and the principles for which the church stands. To Solomon and Caroline Apple it has been granted that their lives should be spared to see their children established in their own homes and with children at their own thresholds, their satisfaction consisting in having had an affectionate and tender interest in their children's welfare.

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### HARRY STEWART HOPKINS, D. D. S.

The improvements made in the practice of dentistry during the past fifty years would be a matter of deep interest to our pioneer settlers, could they but return to earth and visit one of our modern dental parlors. Everything is so shining and up-to-date, they would almost be tempted to have a tooth pulled, just to see for themselves whether or not dentistry has been robbed of any of its terrors, and to prove the truth of the statement that teeth may be extracted without pain, which statement usually is interpreted as meaning without pain to the dentist. However, due credit must be given to the dentist of today, for he is always on the lookout for the aids that help to lessen the hurt, as well as for those that improve the appearance of his work, in which class of up-to-date dentists none is better known hereabout than Doctor Hopkins, a popular dental surgeon at Greensburg, this county.

Harry Stewart Hopkins was born on May 30, 1874, on a farm near Kingston, this county, a son of James Burney and Susan (Stewart) Hopkins. He was reared on a farm, and attended high school, later attending the Ohio Dental College, at Cincinnati, from which he was graduated in 1896, entering upon the practice of his profession at Greensburg, in the fall of the same year. Doctor Hopkins has been very successful, and has built up an excellent practice. In politics, he is a Republican, and in religion, a Presbyterian. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

James Burney Hopkins, father of Doctor Hopkins, was a native of Dearborn county, born in 1838. He died at the home of his daughter, three miles east of Greensburg, in 1901. He was a farmer all his life, and did service in the Union army, during the Civil War, spending thirty days in an effort to



resist Morgan's raid into Indiana. His wife was born in Ohio in 1845 and died in 1890. She was a daughter of Samuel Stewart, a native of Ohio, who came to Decatur county about 1850. They were the parents of three children, Nellie, Elizabeth and Harry Stewart. Nellie married a Mr. Doles, and lives on a farm east of Greensburg. Elizabeth married Bruce McCoy and died in 1901. George Washington Hopkins, of Kentucky, Doctor Hopkins' paternal grandfather, was one of the pioneer settlers of the Kingston neighborhood, having located in this county in 1821.

In 1897 Dr. Harry Stewart Hopkins was united in marriage to Ida C. Hollensbee, daughter of Henry Hollensbee, and to this union two children have been born, Mary and Helen.

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#### CHARLES S. TEMPLETON.

Charles S. Templeton is a well known farmer of Adams township, this county, who owns two hundred and twenty acres of land, of which eighty acres is situated in Daviess county. Representatives of the Templeton family have resided in this county since 1869, when Robert Templeton, a native of Virginia, came to this county. He died at the age of eighty-seven in this county. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Holland, is a native of Franklin county, Indiana, and is now living on the home farm at the age of seventy-eight years. The old home farm consists now of sixty acres, but formerly comprised a tract of one hundred and sixty acres.

Charles S. Templeton was born on July 25, 1861, in Franklin county, Indiana, the son of Robert and Mary (Holland) Templeton, being the fourth child born to his parents, and one of a family of eleven children, the others being as follow: George, who lives south of Adams, in this county, and is engaged in farming; Lillie, who died at the age of seven years; David, who lives at Spiceland, Indiana; Mrs. Anna McKee, of Adams township, this county; Mrs. Nannie Bailey, deceased; Morton, of St. Paul, Indiana; Dora, of Hope, Indiana; Dudley, a well-known merchant of St. Paul; Stella, who lives at home with her mother, south of St. Paul, and Roy who is a telegraph operator in Connersville.

Charles S. Templeton was educated in the public schools of this county and began farming at the age of twenty-two years on the farm owned by his father-in-law, the late James Davis. He was located there for three years, and then moved to a farm farther south where he lived for three years,

at the end of which time he moved to Daviess county, where he lived for nine years. Returning to Decatur county, Mr. Templeton located in Adams township, and after living on a farm for six years moved to Adams, where for two years he was engaged in the livery business. He then purchased his present home farm of sixty acres. In the meantime Mr. Templeton has acquired additional land until now he owns two hundred and twenty acres.

On January 15, 1882, Charles Templeton was married to Mary E. Davis, who was born in Adams township, this county, the daughter of James and Sarah E. (Holland) Davis, both now deceased, to which union one child has been born, Luna, who married M. T. Platt, of Adams, this county, and has one son, William Templeton.

Mrs. Charles Templeton was born in Adams township, this county, on December 10, 1861, daughter of James and Sarah E. (Holland) Davis, the former of whom was born on April 26, 1829, and died on May 5, 1904, and the latter of whom was born in this county on January 10, 1837, and died on June 12, 1911. James Davis came to this country from County Mayo, Ireland, in 1840, at the age of eleven years, a poor lad without friends and without resources. Settling in Adams township, this county, he lived there for many years and prospered. A good trader and financier, he became in time a very successful man, at the time of his death being the owner of nearly three thousand acres of fine land. He was a man known far and wide for his sterling integrity and rugged honesty, his word ever being regarded to be as good as his bond. Twelve hundred acres of Mr. Davis' land was situated in Daviess county, the remainder being located in Decatur and Shelby counties. That he was recognized as an honorable and upright citizen is proved by the fact that on many occasions he was called on by the courts of different counties to administer estates, a most trustworthy and responsible position. During his life he dealt heavily in live stock, and was an extensive shipper in this section. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, as follow: Euphemia Jane, deceased; George M. C., deceased; John H., deceased; Mrs. Templeton; Robert J., of Clay township; James G. and Edward W. (twins), the former of whom lives on the home farm, and the latter near Milford, and Mrs. Luna Smith, of Clay township.

To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Templeton have come an extraordinary measure of the comforts of life, and they have lived together these many years devoted and loving companions on the pathway of life. Mr. Templeton's standing in the community, as well as his standing among the members of his own family, is adequately proved by the fact that at the death of the late James Davis, his father-in-law, he was called upon by the court and by the

family to administer this large estate and performed the duties of that exacting trust not only with credit to himself, but to the entire satisfaction of the members of the family. Mr. and Mrs. Templeton are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Adams and active workers therein, contributing liberally of the means with which fortune has favored them to religious works. Mr. Templeton is a Republican and takes an earnest and intelligent interest in the political affairs of the county, being regarded as a leader in his community.

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#### WILLIAM W. ROBERTSON.

The preservation of the personal annals of prominent citizens of this generation is not only a pleasing, but a most useful work; one for which the succeeding generations of those represented in the pages of such annals should be very grateful. William W. Robertson, a well-known farmer of Adams township, this county, one of several brothers who have done so much for the agricultural development of Adams township, for many years has stood in the front ranks of agricultural vocational life in this community. Coming from an old and respected family of Decatur county, he is naturally a man who is well known here, where his life has always been an open book, subject to the most searching scrutiny. He has responded nobly and faithfully to all the duties which citizenship in a free country impose upon a man, and has amply won his spurs in the race for success.

William W. Robertson was born on March 20, 1858, on the old Robertson homestead, the son of Oliver Perry and Mary A. (Davis) Robertson, early settlers in Adamt township, the former of whom was born in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn county, Indiana, on August 1, 1825, the son of John and Ruth (Ridlen) Robertson, natives of Maryland and early settlers in Dearborn county. After coming to this county, locating in Adams township in 1829, the family became quite prosperous and widely recognized as one of the leading factors in the agricultural life of the community. Mrs. Mary A. (Davis) Robertson, who was the second wife of Oliver P., was born on June 15, 1833, the daughter of John W. and Sarah (Forsythe) Davis, natives of New Jersey, who came to Decatur county about 1830 and settled in Adams township. Mrs. Mary A. (Davis) Robertson died on May 25, 1907. She was the mother of seven children, of whom all are living. Of these children, Josiah W., Franklin, Edward and William W. are farmers in Adams town-

ship, this county; Charles lives at Acton, Marion county, Indiana; Lydia is the wife of Elmer Shelhoun, and Ruth is the housekeeper for her brothers, Josiah W. and Edward. The late Oliver P. Robertson, who passed away in 1907, was first married to Nancy Edrington, who was born in 1831, and who died in June, 1852. She was the daughter of Hiram and Rhoda Edrington, natives of Kentucky and pioneers in Adams township. To that union there were born two children, Louisa L. (deceased) and Lafayette, also a farmer of Adams township, this county.

Until he was twenty-five years of age, William W. Robertson lived on the old homestead and in 1883 purchased his farm of one hundred and twenty acres, the farm on which he now resides and where he has lived continuously for a period of thirty-two years. In 1887, four years after purchasing his farm, Mr. Robertson was married to Josephine Thomas Perry, who was born on October 12, 1855, near the Franklin-Decatur county line, the daughter of James and Martha (Ryan) Perry, natives of Indiana and early settlers of Decatur county. Subsequently they moved from Decatur across the line to Franklin county, and thence back to Decatur. When Mrs. Robertson was a child her parents moved to Illinois and settled in Jasper county, where the father died. The mother returned to this state and died in Seymour, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Perry were the parents of four children, namely: Sarah Elizabeth, who married a Mr. Chapman, and died in 1913; Mrs. Mary Isabelle Smith, of Rushville; Mrs. Martha Jane Terhune, of Urbana, Illinois; and Josephine Thomas, who returned to Indiana from Illinois and was here married. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, but they have one foster daughter, Mrs. Lillian Leonora Hinkle, who lives in Shelby county.

William W. Robertson is a Republican and for many years has been prominent in the political life of Adams township; well known throughout the county for his political following in the section of the county in which he lives. From May 1, 1906, to January 1, 1909, he was trustee of Adams township. He and his wife have a fine home, which is reached by a driveway from the main road. Their land is fertile and highly productive and as Mr. Robertson is a good farmer, the most has been made of the opportunities thus afforded, with the result that they have prospered. Mr. Robertson's election as township trustee is an evidence of the regard in which he is held by the people of his home community and both he and his wife enjoy the highest esteem of their neighbors.



## ORLANDO LEE.

One of the enterprising farmers of Adams township, this county, well known for his efficient public service in the office of county commissioner, where he served for six years, is Orlando Lee, who lives in the northeast corner of that township. Although he owns forty acres of land, he was formerly engaged in operating three hundred acres of rented land. His claim to distinction in this county is based not only on his record as a successful farmer, but in the fall of 1904 he was elected to the office of county commissioner by the largest majority ever given a candidate for that office, being elected on the Republican ticket. His repeated re-elections afforded the most tangible evidence that could be cited of his efficient service and the universal satisfaction which he gave in that office.

Orlando Lee was born on August 30, 1850, in Tipton county, Indiana, the son of Randolph and Eliza (Summerville) Lee, who came to Decatur county on September 26, 1863, Orlando being then thirteen years of age. Randolph Lee, who was born in Kentucky in 1824, came to Decatur county first in 1842 and here learned the wheelwright's trade from the late Samuel Hood. He was married in 1846 and two years later moved to Tipton county and fifteen years later returned to Decatur county. In 1877 he moved to the state of Kansas, where he spent the rest of his life. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was a Scottish Rite Mason of the thirty-second degree. His wife was the daughter of Joseph Summerville, a pioneer settler of Fugit township, this county. To them were born ten children, namely: Philander, deceased; Orlando, the subject of this sketch; Amanda, who died in Rush county on March 22, 1875; Joseph, who lives at Pawhuska, Oklahoma; Mrs. Mary Barlow, who lives at Stillwater, Oklahoma; Ira, who lives at New Albany, Kansas; Mrs. Margaret Ridgeway, who resides in Koweda, Oklahoma; John, deceased; William, who lives at Ramona, Oklahoma, and Randolph, Jr., deceased.

In 1867, when the Lee family moved to Rush county, Indiana, they were accompanied by their son, Orlando, the subject of this sketch, who lived there until 1892, in which year he purchased his farm in Decatur county, giving one thousand dollars for the tract. At the time he went heavily in debt for the land but has since been able to pay for the farm and has lately refused one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. Mr. Lee has a beautiful country home, of which he has every reason to be proud. In 1914 he raised ninety-six acres of wheat and seventy-two acres of corn. On January 12, 1915, at a sale, he sold sixty head of hogs and seven head of horses. In late years

he has been engaged in the sale of fertilizer throughout Decatur county, as a representative of the Reed Phosphate Company, and has been very successful, selling large quantities of fertilizer in this county.

On September 30, 1875, Orlando Lee was married to Katie Hardesty, who was born on March 18, 1849, near St. Omer, in Adams township, the daughter of George Hardesty. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are members of the Milroy Christian church and for years have been considered among the leaders in all good works in that community, being held in the highest regard by all who know them.

In the community in which he lives, Mr. Lee is known as one of those men whose word is as good as his bond and who maintains a friendly and sympathetic interest in the welfare of his neighbors, a cordial and intimate relationship with his fellow citizens and a patriotic, optimistic attitude toward the government of which he is a part. He is a good citizen, who stands first and foremost for law and order and one who believes that good government is the result of electing to office men, who are not only right in intentions and possessed of honorable purposes, but men who likewise understand the needs of those whom they would serve.

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#### ISRAEL D. JEWETT.

The gentleman whose name appears above is widely known as one of the honored old residents of Decatur county. For nearly three-quarters of a century he has been identified with this community, while, since attaining mature years, he has been a valued factor in the development of the county, being prominently identified with the various interests of his locality. His well-directed energies in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his own business interests and his sound judgment have demonstrated what may be accomplished by a man of energy and ambition, who, persevering often in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, has proved that he is the possessor of those innate qualities necessary to bring success, if properly directed.

Israel D. Jewett was born in Adams township, this county, on March 15, 1842, and has lived continuously in that township. The brick house in which he now lives was built by his father and the place is numbered among the best old homesteads of that part of the county. The father of Israel D. Jewett, Hiram D. Jewett, was born on January 17, 1822, and died on March

25, 1890, and his wife, Malinda (Israel) Jewett, was born on May 7, 1823, and died on October 22, 1880. She was the daughter of Thomas and Christiana (Deem) Israel, the former of whom died on August 17, 1858, and the latter on May 25, 1834. The paternal grandparents of Israel D. Jewett were David and Elizabeth (Crosby) Jewett, natives of New Jersey, where David Jewett died on April 30, 1860. The Jewetts were among the first settlers of Adams township, this county, locating near the present site of Downeyville, where he built a stone house and acquired a large tract of land. He built the old Picayune mills and in the early days was a distiller of whisky and also operated a tannery. He built the first saw-mill on Flat Rock river and also the first grist-mill. He served as justice of the peace, or "squire," for many years and was widely known for his honesty and high sense of justice. He was, as stated above, a pioneer in his community and a leader in all movements for the advancement of the welfare of the locality in which he lived.

Hiram D. Jewett was reared and married in Adams township and for a time operated a farm on Flat Rock, later settling on the farm now owned by the subject of this sketch. For a number of years he operated a general store at St. Omer, which he sold and with the proceeds bought a tract of land which he gradually enlarged, until his real estate holdings amounted to three hundred and ninety-six acres. Hiram D. Jewett was prominent in the community and for years served efficiently as trustee of Adams township.

Israel D. Jewett was educated in the schools of St. Omer and, upon reaching manhood, opened a general store at Adams, which he operated for two years. He then engaged in the mercantile business at St. Omer, which occupied his attention from 1872 to 1888, after which, for four years, he was engaged in business at Williamstown. He then moved to Greensburg, where he bought property, erected a comfortable home and remained for fifteen years, at the end of which time he moved to the home farm and has remained there ever since. He has now practically retired from active business, although he maintains an active supervision of the three hundred and ninety-six acres comprising his estate, from which he derives a very comfortable income.

Mr. Jewett has always allied himself with the Republican party and has been stanch in his espousal of its principles. He formerly was a member of the Masonic order and has, in his life, demonstrated the nobility of its teachings. Though practically retired from active life, Mr. Jewett retains a warm interest in the welfare of the community with which his entire life has been identified and has done much for its advancement and progress. He is the owner of the Jewett Telephone Company, which has proved to be one of the

best public-utility corporations in this section of the state and, in other ways, has demonstrated that he is a man of sound business principles, progressive ideas and untiring energy.

On March 22, 1870, Israel D. Jewett was married, at Indianapolis, to Samantha J. Mann, who was born in Brown county, Ohio, on March 14, 1848, the daughter of John W. and Sarah (Dye) Mann, natives of Ohio, who died in Brown county, Ohio, and Vicksburg, Mississippi, respectively, the latter on December 31, 1883. Upon the death of her father, when she was quite young, Samantha Mann was cared for by an uncle in Rush county, Indiana; her mother going to one of the southern states, where she afterwards remarried. Mrs. Jewett has neither father, mother, sister nor brother. She received her education in the public schools and taught school in Decatur and Shelby counties, beginning this vocation before she was eight years of age. She later attended Franklin College and received a well-rounded education. She is a woman of splendid attainments and is held in the highest regard by all who know her. To Israel D. and Samantha J. (Mann) Jewett have been born the following children: Ora H., born on September 17, 1871, who lives in Indianapolis, married Jennie Thomson and has three children, Robert, Marie and Caryl, the latter deceased; Ettie M., October 31, 1872, died on April 5, 1909; and Earl D.

Earl D. Jewett was born on March 31, 1880, and received his education in the public schools. Following his graduation from the Greensburg high school, in furtherance of his desire to make the practice of medicine his life work, he matriculated in the Indiana Medical College at Indianapolis and subsequently became a student in the Illinois Medical College at Chicago, from which latter institution he was graduated in 1904. He then went West, locating in Grant's Pass, Oregon, where he practiced his profession for one year and six months, at the end of which time he returned to Indiana and for three years was located at Richland and Milroy, later moving to St. Paul, this county, where he has ever since continued in the practice of his profession. Well trained and keeping abreast of the times in his profession, Doctor Jewett has met with well-deserved success and is now numbered among the successful and prominent physicians of this community. Doctor Jewett is a member of the Decatur County Medical Society and takes a deep interest in its proceedings. In addition to his professional interests, Doctor Jewett is engaged in the operation of the Jewett Telephone Company, which was established by his father in 1894 and which has been under the doctor's management since 1909. The lines are connected with a number of other exchanges so that the subscribers receive the best of service and are connected with all



points in Rush and Decatur counties. Doctor Jewett is a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and is physician for that order in Decatur county.

In 1906 Dr. Earl D. Jewett was united in marriage to Maude Yeager, a daughter of Samuel Yeager, of Blue Ridge, Shelby county, and to this union have been born two children, Justine Ione and Emma Fern.

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### EZRA L. PLEAK.

Among the well-known farmers of a past generation in Decatur county, Indiana, was Ezra Larkin Pleak, who, prior to the time of his death, February 13, 1913, owned three hundred and eighty acres of farming land in this county. Of him it may be said that he began life in humble circumstances, but slowly and gradually worked his way up to a position of prominence among the farmers of this township. Ezra Larkin Pleak had the good fortune to select for his wife, not only a good woman, but one of superior business ability, and one who proved of great assistance to him in their struggles for success. He died on his farm in Jackson township within ten feet of where he was born.

Ezra Larkin Pleak, until his death a successful farmer of Jackson township, was born, October 24, 1844, the son of Llewellyn and Emily (Menifee) Pleak, the former of whom died in 1850 and the latter of whom, born, April 18, 1818, in Scott county, Kentucky, was the daughter of Larkin and Charity Menifee, who removed from Kentucky to Indiana in 1832 and settled in Decatur county. Emily E. Menifee was married to Llewellyn Pleak, November 5, 1840, and after her husband's death, in 1853, married William Cure. At her death, March 3, 1902, she had two sons living: Ezra Larkin, the subject of this sketch, and Joseph Cure, who died in April, 1915. A sister, Barthena Pleak, the wife of Thomas J. Clark, was born, June 6, 1842, and died July 8, 1900.

The Pleak family in Decatur county had its origin in this country through Johann Pleak, a Hollander, who came to America in the middle of the eighteenth century and settled in Kentucky, in the neighborhood of Castletons Fort, now Mt. Sterling, where he married a Miss Wade, a sister of General Wade, of Revolutionary fame, and to them was born a son, Fielden Blickenstorfer Pleak. In 1818 Fielden Blickenstorfer Pleak married Sabina Virt, a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and of Dutch descent, who was six months old when her parents emigrated to Bryants Station, Kentucky,



MR. AND MRS. EZRA L. PLEAK.



and where she lived at the time of her marriage. Following their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Fielden Pleak moved across the Ohio river, settling at Cress-plains, Jefferson county, Indiana, where they remained only a short time. On March 11, 1822, they came to Decatur county, entering a farm in Washington township; this farm is still in possession of the Pleak family.

Johann Pleak, whose mother was a Blickenstorfer, born in Holland, April 15, 1826, came with his two brothers and a sister to America, landing at Jamestown. Joseph, one of the brothers, went to North Carolina and was never heard of again. The sister was married in Pennsylvania to a man by the name of Throgmorton, and reared a large family. Johann presently settled in Kentucky, where he purchased a tract of land. He became a well-known scout in this pioneer state in the neighborhood of Castletons Fort, and had many interesting experiences with the Indians, who were very much afraid of him. He was married to the sister of General Wade at Castletons Fort. They had three sons and three daughters. One son was slain by the Indians; the other two were Dawson and Fielden, heretofore referred to.

The first shelter which Fielden Pleak set up in Decatur county after his removal here was a brush lean-to, covered with branches of trees and blankets, which served as a home until a log cabin could be erected. After being in Decatur county a short time, Fielden returned to Kentucky to bring back his furniture. Upon his return he found that his wife during his absence had sawed logs and erected the first four courses of a log cabin, and here the family was reared. Fielden Blickenstorfer Pleak, who was born, December 24, 1792, died, December 29, 1835. His wife, Sabina Virt, died December 24, 1875. They were married, June 9, 1814, and had a family of thirteen children, of whom Llewellyn, the father of Ezra Larkin, was the second born. The names of the children in the order of birth were as follows: Louisa, who married Charles Miller; Llewellyn, Joseph Dawson, John Isaac, George G. W. B., Catherine, Joseph D., Eletvan, America, Susannah, Norcus Baron Steuben, Isaac Henry Fielden and Louis.

Ezra Larkin Pleak, the son of Llewellyn Pleak and the grandson of Fielden Pleak, and the great-grandson of Johann Pleak, the founder of the Pleak family in America, was an orphan at the age of five, and was reared by his uncle, Steuben B.

On August 16, 1866, the late Ezra Pleak was married to Lucinda Bruce, who was born, November 10, 1849, in Jackson township, the daughter of Hiram and Mary Ann (Nevitt) Bruce, the former of whom was born, January 10, 1825, in Dearborn county, Indiana, and who died, April 28, 1900,



and the latter of whom was born, December 16, 1831, and who now lives in Westport. Hiram Bruce was the son of Stephen Bruce, who married a Miss Rivers, and who was the captain on a steamboat. Stephen came to Ripley county in 1828. Hiram Bruce was employed on a steamboat on the Ohio river and married Mary Ann Nevitt, January 1, 1849. After their marriage they removed to Decatur county, Indiana, in the spring of 1850, erecting a log cabin and clearing a farm. The children were compelled to blaze their way to school through the wilderness. In 1853 the parents built a frame house. Subsequently, they owned two hundred and forty acres of land, which they inherited from David Nevitt, Mrs. Pleak's maternal grandfather. Hiram and Mary Ann (Nevitt) Bruce had ten children, of whom four are deceased. The names of the children in the order of birth are as follows: Mrs. Lucinda Pleak, Mrs. Mary Gartin, Mrs. Alice Gartin, Mrs. Belle Lemasters, Mrs. Lizzie Lemasters, deceased; Mrs. Ida Gwynn, deceased; Charles, deceased; John, who lives with Mrs. Pleak; Hiram, who was killed in a railroad wreck near Cleveland, Ohio, and George, of North Vernon.

Mr. and Mrs. Pleak began their married life with sixty acres of land, which he inherited. Later, they purchased sixty acres from his sister. It was bare land without any improvements except an old log cabin in a bad state of repair. They were compelled to clear the land. Ponds stood on the place and it was necessary to install elaborate drainage. Later they were able to build a good home on high ground, and prospered. Of the three hundred and eighty acres which Mr. and Mrs. Pleak owned at the time of his death, eighty acres of it belonged to Mrs. Pleak in her own right, which she acquired as the result of raising chickens in a period of three years. She now owns the whole farm, having purchased the interest of the heirs, and has since sold sixty acres, and she now has three hundred and twenty acres in her own right. Mrs. Pleak and her brother operate one hundred and twenty acres, and her sons operate the other land. Some of the many buildings on the farm have been built by Mrs. Pleak since her husband's death.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Larkin Pleak were born six children, one of whom is deceased: Mary Louisa, who was born, September 13, 1867, and died, July 27, 1894, was the wife of John H. Spear, to whom she was married, May 23, 1886, and who at the time of her death left one son, Oda; Dr. Ezra H., who was born, May 30, 1869, and lives at Evansville, and who has been married three times, his first wife being a Miss Anthers, has four children, Carl E., Freda M., Thelma N. and Mary L., who have been partly reared by their grandmother; Orda E., who was born, March 12, 1871, and lives at Letts, married Nevada Evans and they have eight children, Asa D., Mary Leone,

Wayne F., Alfonso Lee, Bernice I., Ardra, Dale and Gerald; Steuben D., who was born, January 1, 1873, married Marie Vanosdal, August 19, 1911; Charles F., who was born on December 9, 1874, and who lives in Jackson township, was married, August 15, 1897, to Daisy D. Borden, and they are the parents of eight children, Vera F., Cecil F., Gladys M., Iola B., Norma Louisa, Naomi L., Orion E. and Helen Leota; Walter E., who was born, March 1, 1877, married Gertrude Dunden, April 8, 1903, and they have two children, Maurice D. and Ruth Isabel, living in Jackson township, near Sardinia.

The late Ezra Larkin Pleak was a member of Mt. Aerie Baptist church, as is also his wife. He was a Republican in politics and recorded his first vote for Lincoln. A skillful and enterprising farmer, an efficient and upright citizen, a kind husband and loving father, the late Ezra Larkin Pleak was widely mourned by the people of Jackson township, where he had many friends. Although his work is ended here, his influence goes on to mold for good the lives of his children and the lives of those with whom he came in contact during life.

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### LORIN A. JEWETT.

No resident of Adams township, this county, is better known in the township, or in this section of the state, since Mr. Jewett's acquaintance extends through several counties, than the subject of this sketch. He belongs to an old and highly respected family in this section, his grandfather having been one of the pioneer settlers in Adams township, having entered, upon his arrival here in 1823 from New York state, three thousand acres of land in that part of the county, much of which is still held by the Jewett family. Mr. Jewett is the township trustee and a well-known merchant of St. Paul, this county, senior member of the firm of L. A. Jewett & Son.

Lorin A. Jewett was born on October 28, 1861, on a farm three miles north of Adams, the son of Orin C. and Phoebe (Smith) Jewett, the former of whom was born in 1829, and who died in 1907, and the latter of whom was born on July 29, 1829. Orin C. Jewett was born on the farm entered by his father, David Jewett, and the two-story stone house still standing on the land was built by the latter. Orin C. Jewett built a house a quarter of a mile distant from the stone house of his father. The Jewett family, which was established in this section by David Jewett, who died in 1861, is one of the leading families in Decatur county. The founder of the family in this section

was an Englishman who married a German woman. Their son, Orin C. Jewett, spent all his life, with the exception of six months, on the old homestead farm in Adams township, and at the time of his death was the owner of four hundred and thirteen acres, having begun with two hundred and forty acres. David Jewett erected a grist-mill at Downeyville, on the Little Flat Rock river, and for many years operated that mill, the pioneers coming from a distance of twenty miles to have their grain ground. Lorin A. Jewett was one of six children born to his parents, the others being as follow: Charles and Frank D., who live in Greensburg with their mother and who operate the home farm; Effie, the wife of J. T. Kercheval, a farmer living in Washington township, two miles east of Greensburg; Mrs. Mary Farlow, of Greensburg, and Mrs. Bertha Bentley, whose husband is a farmer of this county.

Reared on the farm and educated in the public schools of Adams township, Lorin A. Jewett taught school for twenty years in Decatur county. For three years he was a student at Hartsville College, and for two years was in attendance at the Central Indiana Normal School at Danville, Indiana. In college he prepared himself for teaching and bookkeeping. In the fall of 1906 he engaged in business at St. Paul, in a large brick building, and has been thus engaged since that time. He has a large stock of merchandise and has built up an excellent trade. His store is arranged on the department plan, and is admirably managed. Mr. Jewett has an extensive trade, not only in Adams township, this county, but over the line in Shelby and Rush counties, his store being one of the most popular thereabout.

On December 25, 1887, Lorin A. Jewett was married at Danville, Indiana, to Sallie Green, daughter of Henry Green, of Danville, and to this union has been born one son, Kenneth L., born on December 6, 1888, who is engaged in business with his father, as the junior member of the firm of L. A. Jewett & Son.

Lorin A. Jewett was elected township trustee of Adams township on the Democratic ticket in the fall of 1914. For five years he has served as secretary of the St. Paul Building and Loan Association. The Jewett family are all earnest and faithful members of the Christian church. Fraternally, Mr. Jewett is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Improved Order of Red Men, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, in all of which organizations he takes an active interest. He holds membership with the Knights of Pythias lodge at Greensburg, with the Red Men and Odd Fellows at St. Paul, with the Eagles at Greensburg, and with the Masonic fraternity at Waldron.

A successful merchant and a well-known citizen, L. A. Jewett deserves to rank as one of the representative citizens of Decatur county, a man of generous impulses, of splendid business ability and of pleasing personal parts.

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### ALBERT G. TAYLOR.

Albert G. Taylor, a well-known farmer of Adams township, this county, who owns a highly-profitable farm of two hundred acres in that township, belongs to a family which was established in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, in 1842, when that township was practically a wilderness. Although Mr. Taylor is neither one of the largest farmers nor the largest stockmen of this county, he has made a very gratifying success of his two-hundred-acre tract and has an annual output of about two hundred head of hogs and some forty or fifty head of cattle.

Born on March 10, 1847, Albert G. Taylor, who has lived in Adams township for the past twelve years, is a native of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, the son of George and Anna (Hill) Taylor, who are natives of Pennsylvania, born and reared in that state. After their marriage they came west in 1842 and settled in Sand Creek township, this county, where they purchased three hundred acres of timber land, built a log cabin and made ready to clear and develop their farm. In this they were very successful, and presently came to be regarded as among the well-to-do residents of that community. George Taylor died at the age of seventy-five years and his wife died at the age of sixty-five.

Of the ten children born to George and Anna (Hill) Taylor, seven are still living. Isaac died in 1905, Mrs. Elizabeth Robbins died in 1885, and Mrs. Jane Samuels died in 1890. The living children are as follow: Albert G., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Anne Bayles, of Carroll county, Indiana; Frank, of Greensburg, this county; Mrs. Alice Myers, of Sand Creek township, this county; John Anderson; Merritt, of Jackson township, and Belle, who makes her home with her brother, Albert G.

After attending school in Sand Creek township, and living at home with his parents until twenty-three years of age, Albert G. Taylor rented a farm in Sand Creek township, having previously engaged in farm work for hire in that neighborhood. From his savings Mr. Taylor was able eventually to buy one hundred and forty-two acres in Sand Creek township and later to add forty acres to this original tract, making one hundred and eighty-two acres in



all. There he lived until 1903, in which year he sold that farm and removed to Adams township, purchasing his present farm of two hundred acres.

In 1869 Albert G. Taylor was married to Rachel Stout, who was born in Franklin county, this state, in 1849, the daughter of the Rev. Joab Stout, a pioneer Baptist minister, who came to Decatur county from Franklin county when Rachel was an infant. The marriage proved a very happy one, and Mr. Taylor and his wife lived together, true and devoted companions, until Mrs. Taylor's death, December 26, 1910. To them six children were born, namely: Alpha H., who became a teacher in the Decatur county schools at the age of seventeen, later taking a course at Franklin College, going thence to the Indiana State Normal School at Terre Haute, from which she was graduated, and is now a teacher in the public schools of Gary, Indiana. Mrs. Myrta Myers, of Connersville, Indiana, who has one child, Dorothy; Mrs. Luna Burton, of Atlanta, Georgia, who has one child, Wynne; May, who lives at home with her father; Mrs. Edith West, of Indianapolis, who has two children, Albert and Robert, and Luther, who lives at home and is engaged in farming.

Mr. Taylor is a member of the Baptist church, as was Mrs. Taylor before her death, and their children were reared in that faith. Mr. Taylor has lived to rear a large family of children, all of whom are leading honorable, useful and successful lives and has the gratification of knowing that his own career in this respect has been successful. He has the further satisfaction of knowing that he enjoys the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and fellow citizens, all of whom hold him in the highest regard.

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### LAFAYETTE ROBERTSON.

In these latter days farming has become a vocation for highly trained and educated minds and the haphazard processes of former generations must be given up if men are to succeed in this generation. Many far-seeing farmers have anticipated this modern development in agriculture and themselves have adopted and followed improved methods and scientific processes for many years. Lafayette Robertson, a well-known farmer of Adams township, is a man who not only understands the business of farming as a business, but who practices farming as a business and who has managed to make it pay him handsome returns.

Lafayette Robertson was born in Decatur county, Indiana, on March 15,

1852, the son of Oliver Perry and Nancy (Edrington) Robertson, the former of whom was born in 1825 and died in 1907, and the latter born in 1831 and died in June, 1852. Oliver Perry Robertson, a native of Decatur county, was the son of John and Ruth (Ridlen) Robertson, the former a native of West Virginia, who settled in this county in 1823. Mrs. Nancy (Edrington) Robertson was the daughter of Hiram and Rhoda Edrington, natives of Kentucky and pioneer settlers in Adams township, this county, where they cleared the land for their farm, built a log house and later erected a large brick house, now owned by E. Shelhorn.

When Lafayette Robertson was only four years old, his father moved to the old Robertson homestead, which is in sight of Lafayette Robertson's present home. The late Oliver P. Robertson lived to rear a large family of children and to become quite well-to-do, owning, at the time of his death, one hundred and sixty acres of land. By his first marriage two children were born, Louisa L. (deceased) and Lafayette, the subject of this sketch. After the death of his first wife, Oliver P. Robertson married, secondly, Mary Ann Davis, who died in 1909. To this second union eight children were born, namely: Warren, who lives on a farm west of Adams; John; Frank, who lives in Adams township, south of his brother Warren's residence; William W., who lives three-quarters of a mile west of the old Edrington home; Charles T., of Marion county, Indiana; Edward, who resides with Warren; Ruth, who lives in Adams township, and Mrs. Lydia Shelhorn, who lives in the old Edrington home. Lafayette Robertson lived at home until seventeen years of age and then worked as a farm hand for six years. After his marriage, he lived on the old homestead for two or three years and then rented and moved to the Nelson Jewett farm, which he bought several years later and has lived there for thirty-seven years.

On April 7, 1875, Lafayette Robertson was married to Emma Jewett, who was born on July 31, 1855, in a brick house on the same farm where she is now living, the daughter of Nelson and Ruth (Hayes) Jewett, the former of whom was born in 1820 in Hamilton county, Ohio, the son of David Jewett and who died on September 28, 1882, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Jacob Hayes, an early settler of Jackson township, who was born in 1824 and who died on September 29, 1887. Mrs. Robertson is the third in order of birth of the children born to her parents, the others being as follow: Mrs. Julia Hill, deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth McCoy, who died on January 22, 1915; Mrs. Fannie White, of Greensburg; Mrs. Clara White, also of Greensburg, and several who died in infancy.

To Lafayette and Emma (Jewett) Robertson have been born three

children, one of whom died in infancy, those living being Mrs. Myrta Anderson, of Adams township, this county, and Mrs. Nellie Mullikin, who lives in Ridgeville, Indiana, and has one child, Robert Stanley.

At one time Mr. Robertson served a term as a member of the county council. Politically, he is now identified with the Progressive party. He is a man well known throughout Adams township and today is regarded as a leader in the agricultural affairs of this township, a man of gracious personality, who has mastered the vocation in which he is engaged and whose efforts have met with a most satisfactory and gratifying degree of success.

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### WILLIAM S. KETCHUM.

William S. Ketchum was born in 1834 in Hamilton county, Ohio, the son of Benjamin and Rhoda (Beem) Ketchum, the former of whom was a native of New York and who came to Ohio, where his son, William S., the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood.

At the age of twenty-two years William S. Ketchum married Elizabeth Bevington, a native of Miami county, Ohio, to which union six children were born, four of whom are still living, namely: Benjamin K., of Grant county, Indiana; William E., of Decatur county, a farmer and preacher living near Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Arminta Knaar, the wife of Adam Knaar, of Greensburg, and Isom Ketchum, of Indianapolis. The mother of these children died in the early seventies and William S. Ketchum, in 1879, married, secondly, Mary M. Williams, the daughter of Peter and Eliza (Palmer) Williams, the latter of whom was the daughter of David and Annie (Hammond) Palmer, natives of New York state. Annie (Hammond) Palmer came with her parents from England, where she was born in 1794. When eighteen years old she was married to David Palmer, who shortly afterwards became a soldier in the War of 1812, serving as a member of the troop of light horse artillery recruited in New York state. Annie (Hammond) Palmer was ninety-four years old when she passed away in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1888, to which county she and her husband had come from their home in New York state, and where her husband died in 1853. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Eliza (Palmer) Williams, the mother of Mary M. (Williams) Ketchum, was the third child. Eliza (Palmer) Williams was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1819, shortly after the removal of the family to this state. She grew to womanhood there and in 1842 married Peter

Williams, a native of Kentucky, and one of the descendants of Roger Williams. Peter Williams died in Dearborn county, Indiana, about 1844. His widow married John Fawcett, a native of Ohio, about the year 1853, and they spent the rest of their lives in Dearborn county, she having been one of the oldest citizens of that county at the time of her death.

William S. Ketchum saw service in the Union army during the Civil War as a soldier in Company G, One Hundred and Tenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving under Colonel Kiefer. This regiment was attached to the army of General Grant and was present at eighteen decisive and severe battles, of which the battles of the Wilderness, Mission Ridge, Gettysburg and Winchester were among the most famous. In 1862, in front of Petersburg, on the skirmish line, Mr. Ketchum was shot through the lungs and after that was confined in the hospital for six months. When he recovered the war was over and he came to Decatur county, where for years he was successfully engaged in farming, and is now living retired at his pleasant home in Greensburg.

Mr. Ketchum is a Democrat of the Andrew Jackson variety. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Greensburg, and of the Baptist church. He is known as a good man, a patriotic citizen and as one who has been a brave and efficient soldier. Naturally, he is highly respected by the people of this county, who hold him in high esteem.

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#### GEORGE W. SHUPERD.

George W. Shuperd, a retired citizen of Adams township, this county, the son of a veteran of the Civil War, and himself a soldier of that great war, was one of the color bearers on the morning that General Johnston surrendered to General Sherman, one of the concluding events of the great Civil War.

George W. Shuperd was born in 1841, in Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of John and Elizabeth (Wood) Shuperd, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Decatur county about 1823 from Pennsylvania, the family being of Pennsylvania-Dutch origin. Elizabeth Wood was a native of Virginia, a daughter of James Wood, a member of one of the old families of Virginia, of English origin. John Shuperd and Elizabeth Wood were married in Decatur county, and to that union twelve children were born, of whom George W. was the fourth in order



of birth. John Shuperd, a well-known cooper of this county, was sixty years of age when the Civil War broke out, but despite his years, enlisted in the Eighth Indiana Cavalry, under Colonel Jones, and served over two years, being discharged for disability. He was a brave and efficient soldier and a man of much strength of character, a useful factor in his community. He died in 1899.

George M. Shuperd was reared to the life of the farm and in 1861 married Emily Byrum, daughter of James and Nellie (Davis) Byrum, the former of whom was a native of North Carolina, of English ancestry. Members of the family were early settlers in Virginia. James Byrum was married in Kentucky, and soon after his marriage came to Decatur county, where he entered land in Adams township, and became a prosperous and successful farmer. He and his wife reared twelve children, of whom Emily, born in Decatur county in 1843, was the youngest.

One year after his marriage, in 1862, George W. Shuperd enlisted in the Thirty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and Eighth Cavalry, recruited in Indiana, and served until the close of the war. He was with General Sherman on his famous march to the sea, and was one of the color bearers when General Johnston surrendered to General Sherman, which event practically marked the close of the war. Mr. Shuperd saw strenuous service in this, the greatest of his country's wars. He is authority for the statement that during one of General Kilpatrick's campaigns "for twenty-one days the saddle was not taken from his horse and when it was removed the hair and hide came with it." Mr. Shuperd retains a vivid recollection of the stirring scenes through which he passed during the war. His regiment, which went into the war eleven hundred strong, was mustered out with only two hundred and fifty soldiers remaining. After the surrender of Johnston, Mr. Shuperd was detailed to break up the bands of guerrillas, the remnants of the armies of Morgan, Forrest and Wheeler which had disintegrated into roving and pillaging bands. He came home from the army in August, 1865, and began farming, which he followed for about ten years, at the end of which time he entered the butcher business, in which he was quite successful.

To George W. and Emily (Byrum) Shuperd three children have been born, two of whom, namely: Oliver, born on January 19, 1862, who died on March 30, 1873; Sarlinda, born in June, 1866, died when fourteen months old; John, born in 1872, who lives in Adams township, married Jane Waits, who died on May 5, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Shuperd have also reared three grandchildren, Dolly Ray, Pearl May and Carlos Melvern Shuperd.

George W. Shuperd has been a life-long Republican and is proud of the fact. He is a man of remarkably strong body and mind. Mr. and Mrs. Shuperd are members of the Christian church and enjoy the highest regard of their many friends.

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### ROBERT ANDERSON.

The venerable Robert Anderson, of Clay township, this county, is another of those distinguished sons of '61 to '65, who, at the call of his country for the preservation of the Union, abandoned the peaceful pursuits of life and went out on the field of battle to yield up his life, if necessary, in behalf of the cause of freedom.

Robert Anderson was born in Butler county, Ohio, on October 26, 1838, son of Robert and Elizabeth (Frazier) Anderson, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, who migrated to Butler county, Ohio, in pioneer times and settled there on a farm. He was a Democrat in politics and a substantial citizen of the county, well known and highly respected throughout that section.

In August, 1862, Robert Anderson, Jr., enlisted in Company C, Ninety-third Regiment, Rosseau's Brigade, Third Division, Fourth Army Corps, as a private. At the battle of Missionary Ridge he was wounded in the shoulder and was confined to the hospital until the spring of 1864, when he again joined his command. In the summer of 1864, still unable, on account of his severe wounds, to resume active service he guarded cattle below Chattanooga, and drove them to Big Shanty, where he turned them over to the Fourth Army Corps and then returned to his regiment. He remained with the regiment until June 15, 1865, when he received an honorable discharge and returned home.

Among the many severe and bloody battles in which Robert Anderson was engaged were those of Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Franklin, Nashville, New Hope church, and various engagements of the Atlantic campaign. After the battle of New Hope Church he was taken ill and was sent to the hospital camp at Chattanooga. Mr. Anderson had two brothers in the war, both serving in the same regiment with him. They were captured by the enemy and compelled to endure the horrors of both Libby prison and Andersonville.

On September 24, 1868, Robert Anderson was married to Elizabeth Ferguson, daughter of Samuel and Nancy (Nicholson) Ferguson, of Decatur

county. To this happy union were born the following children: Alvin E., of Shelby county; Henry R., of Greensburg; Albert F., of Adams township; Mrs. Orpha Altizer and Mrs. Daisy Wright, of Greensburg.

Upon the close of the war Robert Anderson, who then was without funds, worked at various occupations until about 1875, when he purchased sixty acres of land south of Greensburg. After owning the sixty acres about three years, he sold it and purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Adams and Clay townships, going in debt for the same to the extent of five thousand dollars, and after ten or twelve years of diligent effort was able to remove this indebtedness. Today he is regarded as a solid and substantial citizen of Decatur county, intensely patriotic in his devotion to his country and the flag; a man of good business ability and strong moral fiber.

Though always a Republican in politics, Mr. Anderson is more a patriot than a partisan. His first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln and he has never wavered in his allegiance to the party of the great emancipator. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Greensburg and of the Methodist church, with which church Mrs. Anderson also is connected. Mr. Anderson has been living a retired life for about fourteen years and is comfortably situated and able to enjoy life, he and his wife enjoying the utmost respect and esteem of their many friends.

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#### ISAAC D. WAITS.

It is doubtful whether there is living in Decatur county today any man more patriotically devoted to the cause of human freedom and the cause of his glorious country than the venerable Isaac D. Waits, a veteran of the Civil War, who gave four of the best years of his life to the service of his country and its flag.

Isaac D. Waits, who was born on October 8, 1840, was twenty-one years old on the day he enlisted as a soldier in the Union army for service during the Civil War, October 8, 1861. He joined Company E, Fiftieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which was veteranized on March 2, 1864, and consolidated with the veterans of the Fifty-second Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, attached to the army of General Thomas, in middle Tennessee. After departing from Louisville, Kentucky, Mr. Waits' first engagement was at Bowling Green, Kentucky, where the regiment had its first fight. After this he was stationed at Nashville, Tennessee, for one

year and was engaged there in fighting Morgan's guerillas. In the invasion of western Tennessee the army saw a great deal of hard fighting, especially in the pursuit of General Forrest, who was defeated on the Tennessee river. Being taken ill about this time, Mr. Waits was confined in the hospital at Memphis during the winter of 1863, and in the spring rejoined his regiment at Little Rock, Arkansas. On account of the delay occasioned by failure to get transportation, he ran away from the hospital and found his way by boat and otherwise to Little Rock. The winters of 1863 and 1864 were spent at Lewisburg, Arkansas. During the famous cold New Year's day of 1864 he nearly froze to death, having been on guard duty uninterruptedly for forty-eight hours. In February, 1864, on the regiment's return to Little Rock, began the Camden campaign, which lasted for forty-two days, during which time there was continual fighting. During this campaign occurred the battle of Saline river, which lasted seven hours, one of the fiercest and hardest-fought battles of the war. For more than seven hours, on account of the incessant din of battle, Mr. Waits was unable to distinguish the crack of his own gun, and could discern its fire only by the "kick." In that campaign eight thousand Union soldiers defeated forty-four thousand Confederate troops under General Smith.

After Mr. Waits' re-enlistment in the Fifty-second, that regiment was engaged by General Smith at Mobile, Alabama, an engagement which lasted thirteen days. During the progress of this battle Lee's surrender was announced and Lincoln was killed. When the army received word of Lincoln's assassination it sent one hundred shells into the rebel fort. On the first day of the fight Mr. Waits was wounded by a spent six-pound solid shot, which struck his gun, and which also paralyzed his right leg. He was unable to use this leg for seven weeks, and, although he was sent to the hospital, his spirit was so aroused after the death of Lincoln that he limped away from the hospital and rejoined his regiment, using his gun for a crutch. Afterwards he marched sixty miles on crutches. At the Tom Bigby river the regiment was discharged, December 19, 1865, and came home by the way of Atlanta and Chattanooga. After two weeks in camp at Indianapolis the soldiers were paid off and discharged.

Isaac D. Waits is the son of William and Catherine Ann (Hicks) Waits, the former of whom was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, in 1798, the son of John Waits, a native of Maryland, who migrated to Kentucky during the pioneer days and became a prosperous farmer of Harrison county, that state, where he reared a large family, of whom William Waits was the eldest child. The latter grew to manhood in Kentucky and in 1822 came to



Indiana, locating in Rush county, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land. About 1816 he was married in Kentucky and to that union there were born six children before the family came to Indiana in 1822. Seven more children were born after their arrival in this state, making thirteen altogether, of whom Isaac D. was the last born. Catherine Ann Hicks was the daughter of Joshua and Ann (Chambers) Hicks, both natives of Ireland, who came to America some time before the American Revolution. Joshua Hicks, a molder by trade, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and was detailed to mold cannon balls, serving valiantly throughout the War of Independence. A young man when he came to America, he was not married until after the beginning of the Revolution, when he was thirty years old, his wife, Ann Chambers, being fifteen years old at the time. They lived together as man and wife for eighty-five years, their deaths occurring within a few hours of each other, and their remains were buried in the same grave. They were the parents of seventeen children, of whom Catherine Ann (Hicks) Waits, the mother of Isaac D. Waits, was the last born. Joshua Hicks also served as a soldier in the War of 1812, doing duty in the same capacity as in the Revolutionary War, as a molder of cannon balls. His eldest son, Isaac, then about eighteen years old, was a helper.

After the discharge of Isaac D. Waits from the Union army he returned home to Rush county, Indiana, to which section his father had moved in 1856, and on February 23, 1866, was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Akers, the widow of John F. Akers, a soldier of the Civil War, a member of Company H, Second Indiana Cavalry, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Barnell Station, Georgia, and died in Andersonville prison in September, 1864. Mrs. Waits is a daughter of William and Margaret (Chowley) Gibson, who were natives of Ohio county, Indiana, of Pennsylvania stock. Mr. and Mrs. Waits began life together on a farm in Ohio county, where two of their children were born. In February, 1870, they came to Decatur county, settling in Adams township, where they lived for two years, at the end of which time they removed to Clinton county, Indiana, where they remained for two years, after which they returned to Adams township, this county. After living on a farm there for a short time they moved to the village of Adams, where they have lived ever since.

To Isaac D. and Elizabeth (Gibson) Waits six children have been born, as follow: Minnie J., who is the wife of Clay Aldridge, of Greensburg; Cora, who is the wife of William E. Laws, of Adams township; Eddie L., whose home is at Adams, but who is at present at Lexington, Kentucky;

Jane F., the deceased wife of John Shupherd; Frank, who died at the age of eleven years, and Pearl M., who died at the age of four.

Despite the weight of their years, Mr. and Mrs. Waits are in good health and spirits and retain the liveliest interest in current affairs. A Republican in politics, Mr. Waits is stanch and true to the party of Lincoln. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and Mrs. Waits belongs to the Ladies' Relief Corps. Both are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are held in the highest esteem by their many friends in this county.

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### JOHN C. BLACK.

John C. Black, a diligent and prosperous farmer of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, who owns ninety-five acres of land and a beautiful home, was born, October 25, 1855, in Sand Creek township, the son of David Black, who was born in 1807 and who died in 1884 at the age of seventy-three years, six months and sixteen days. David was a native of Augusta county, Virginia, and when a young man rode horseback from Virginia to Franklin county, Indiana, settling near the Marion county line, where he was married to Susan Heimlich, a native of Franklin county. In April, 1855, they moved to Sand Creek township and settled on the old Kepper farm near Letts Corner. They died at Letts. They had seven children, three eldest of whom, Andrew, Elizabeth and Nancy, and the youngest, Rachel, are deceased. The children living are Jacob, Helen and John C., the subject of this sketch.

On December 24, 1879, John C. Black was married to Alice Parker, daughter of John G. Parker, of Sand Creek township. After his marriage Mr. Black lived for three years, one month and ten days on the Alexander farm in Jackson township, until October 25, 1883, when he located on his present farm. In 1895 he purchased this farm for forty dollars an acre. He has invested hundreds of dollars in various kinds of improvements and now has a commodious farm house, attractively painted and a large barn. This farm, which he originally purchased at forty dollars an acre, is now worth in excess of one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre.

In politics Mr. Black is a Republican but has never taken any part in the councils of his party, preferring to devote himself exclusively to farming. He is a member of Greensburg lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons. Mrs. Black is a member of the Baptist church. Although Mr. Black is not a member of any church, his parents were leading Presbyterians in this section.

## JOHN W. TAYLOR.

In all of the history of Decatur county, no better citizen has ever lived within its borders than the late John W. Taylor, a successful farmer and a well-known veteran of the Civil War.

John W. Taylor was born in Bracken county, Kentucky, in 1837, the son of William T. and Maria (Adams) Taylor, natives of Kentucky, the former born in 1784 and the latter in 1806, who were the parents of five children, of whom John W. was the eldest son.

When John W. Taylor's parents died, the family of small children were left to the mercy of a cruel and difficult existence, hence early in life John W. developed the habit of self-reliance and patient endurance. The responsibilities thrown upon his shoulders when a mere lad, probably had much to do with making him a strong and sturdy character.

In April, 1862, John W. Taylor answered the call of his country for help in the great struggle for the preservation of the Union, and enlisted in Company H, Sixty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in which he served with distinction until the close of the war, being mustered out as a corporal. In many hard-fought battles, he was a brave soldier and had a distinguished record. At the termination of his service he returned to Decatur county and took up the occupation of farming, in which he was quite successful.

In 1906 John W. Taylor was married to Mrs. Nancy (McCoy) Altizer, widow of John Altizer. She was born in 1842 in Jefferson county, Indiana, the daughter of Daniel and Rachel (Phillips) McCoy, both of whom were natives of Kentucky and who moved to Jefferson county, Indiana, when that section of the country was a wilderness. Her father was a carpenter by trade and many houses are still standing in Jefferson county as a monument to his skill and honesty. Mrs. Taylor was educated in the district schools, but her advantages for obtaining an education were limited to three months a year and she was compelled to walk two and one-half miles to school.

Mrs. John W. Taylor was first married in 1858 to John Altizer, who was born in 1840 and died in 1881. He was the son of Isaac and Sarah Altizer, of Jefferson county, Indiana, the former of whom was a native of that county. The Altizers comprised a good old substantial family, prominent in the affairs of Jefferson county. Four years after the marriage of John Altizer and Nancy McCoy, the former enlisted in the Union army and served for one month, or until he was severely wounded during the battle of

Franklin. After several months in the hospital, he was discharged for disability. The wound received in his gallant service for his country caused a lingering illness from which he never fully recovered. On account of lameness he was unable to engage in any strenuous labor after the war. However, he took up milling and was very successful in that business, accumulating considerable property. He was the father of five children: Morton, who lives in Missouri; Ella, the wife of James Kenipp, of Illinois; Robert, of Adams, and Oscar and Gilbert, both deceased. John Altizer was a Republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The late John W. Taylor was also a Republican in politics, intensely loyal to his country and a patriot of the highest type. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the affairs of which he took a warm and active interest. He was a member of the Methodist church at Adams at the time of his death and one of the every-day kind of Christians, widely known for the high character of his life. Mrs. Taylor is a member of the Methodist church at Adams, with which she became affiliated when fourteen years old. She is a woman of generous impulses, dearly loved by her children and esteemed and respected by her neighbors.

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#### CHARLES F. RISK.

Instances are very rare in which men who have been trained to a trade in the city become successful farmers, yet Charles F. Risk, a young farmer of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, at the time of his marriage abandoned carriage trimming, a trade which he had followed in Greensburg and in Indianapolis, and having removed to the farm has become one of the successful agriculturists of the county.

Charles F. Risk was born on August 5, 1874, in Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of John A. and Eliza (Flemming) Risk, the former of whom was born in 1852 in Kentucky, came to Decatur county in 1872, and now lives in Greensburg, where he moved in 1903 and where he is a well-known and successful business man. The latter was born in 1844 in Ohio. All of the six children, born to James A. and Eliza (Flemming) Risk, are still living, and are as follow: Mrs. Libbie M. Weaver, Crawfordsville; Charles F., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Carrie Glass, of Marion township; Eva; Frank M., of Chicago, and Della.



In 1902 Charles F. Risk was married to Melissa Sparks, who was born in 1874 in Montgomery county, Indiana, the daughter of William O. and Lucy P. (McCracken) Sparks, natives of Kentucky and Indiana, respectively, the former of whom was born, October 27, 1844, and died, December 10, 1879, when Melissa was five years old, and the latter of whom was born, January 27, 1844, in Clinton township, the daughter of Hugh McCracken, an early settler of Decatur county, and died, September 29, 1884. William and Lucy P. (McCracken) Sparks were married in Decatur county, but immediately removed to Montgomery county, and there spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are now deceased. Of the deceased children, Alvin was born September 30, 1870, and John, the youngest, born March 5, 1878, died in 1879. The three living children are as follow: Hugh, born February 15, 1872, lives in Rush county; Melissa, born March 29, 1874 and married Charles F. Risk; and Ellen, born December 4, 1875, lives in Ft. Wayne.

After the death of her parents Mrs. Risk came to Sand Creek township, and made her home with Silas White and Margaret Susan (McCracken) Garrison, her uncle and aunt. The former was a son of Mary Fugit, a daughter of Judge John Fugit, one of the early settlers of Decatur county, who came to Fugit township in 1818, settling one mile east of Clarksburg. John Fugit was born, October 5, 1832, and died, December 21, 1900. Silas White Garrison, a native of Decatur county, born in Clay township, was the son of David and Mary (Fugit) Garrison. His wife, who before her marriage was Susan McCracken, was born, January 29, 1839, in Clinton township, and died May 12, 1914. Silas White Garrison was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War, and served one hundred days in the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

The farm of a hundred and thirty-seven acres in Sand Creek township, on which Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Risk live, was the Garrison home place, bequeathed to Mr. Risk and his wife by her uncle and aunt. They moved to this farm immediately after their marriage at which time Mr. Risk abandoned his trade and engaged in farming. He also owns eighty acres of land in Marion township. On the home place there is an attractive farm house situated on a graveled road and well shaded with magnificent trees. The farm also has good barns and other out-buildings. Mr. Risk ordinarily raises a hundred head of hogs annually, and breeds a cross between Duroc-Jerseys and Poland Chinas. He has been very successful as a farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Risk have one child, Geneva, who was born on December 13, 1910. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Risk

is a progressive Republican. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Letts. Although Mr. Risk has lived in Sand Creek township a comparatively short time, he has made a host of friends since coming here and is a man who during his comparatively brief residence has won the confidence and esteem of his neighbors. Mr. and Mrs. Risk are both well liked in the community where they live.

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#### LEROY A. ECKHART.

Among those conspicuous in the financial affairs of this county as well as township, is a young man whose stalwart integrity of character won for him friends and associates soon after he entered the business circles of Letts. Although born in another state, Indiana became the home of his adoption at an early age, and this state is now proud to claim him as her own, for he has contributed loyally to her citizenship and also to her material resources. The honest, straightforward business man is an asset to any community, for the force of his integrity is felt beyond the limits of his own associates in the commercial world, and becomes a distinct moral influence. Leroy A. Eckhart, cashier of the Letts State Bank, was born in Livingston county, Missouri, March 19, 1881.

Mr. Eckhart, as the eighth of a family of nine children, early in life acquired those habits of self-reliance which became valuable later on in his active career. His father, John A. Eckhart, was of sturdy pioneer fibre, coming to this country from Germany where he was born on December 18, 1839, near Frankfort. When only twelve years of age he moved to DeKalb county, Indiana, and ten years later married Lucinda D. Barrett, the marriage taking place on April 17, 1861. His wife was a native of Lagrange county, Indiana, and was born on March 25, 1844. Mr. Eckhart was known as a successful farmer. In 1880, Mr. and Mrs. Eckhart moved to Livingston county, Missouri, and in the following year, the subject of this sketch was born. In 1889 the family left their Western home for Miami county, Indiana, and seven years later, removed to Shirley, Indiana. In 1897, they again changed their place of residence to Scott county. On October 2, 1902, John Eckhart died on his farm eight miles from Scottsburg, and was buried in Galveston, Indiana. His widow is now living in Pasadena, California.

John A. and Lucinda D. (Barrett) Eckhart were the parents of a large family, but in spite of the hardships of pioneer days, there was no lack in parental love and care. John, the first-born of this household, was born on

January 14, 1863, and died at Tribune, Kansas, on January 8, 1908. The first daughter, Elinore I. was the wife of Will Jacobs, was born on September 12, 1864, and passed away on March 15, 1915, at Coyle, Oklahoma. Cora C. Hudson was born on July 16, 1866, and now lives in Montalvo, California. Arclemena D. died in infancy. Lillie M. McCormick was born on April 16, 1870, and her present home is in Los Angeles, California. Martha A. Haynes was born on February 20, 1872, and lives near Milford. Charles Victor was born on January 4, 1874, and lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. Leroy A. born on March 19, 1881, the subject of this sketch. The youngest child, Grace Leonore, born on June 1, 1883, married Fred L. Thurston, and resides with her mother in Pasadena.

Leroy A. Eckhart attended the schools of Scott county, and graduated from the Seymour Business College. Like the majority of the youths who were farmers sons, he worked for a while after his school days were past, on his father's farm, but this did not prove entirely congenial, and as mathematics had been a favorite study, his tastes found interesting employment when he began his duties as bookkeeper of the Scott County State Bank. Later, he was engaged by the Salem Citizens' State Bank, a position he retained for four months. He left Salem to organize the State Bank of Letts, and from that time until the present, has been its leading spirit. He is now one of the directors, as well as its cashier.

On November 27, 1901, Leroy A. Eckhart married Opal E. Rice, whose ancestors were pioneers of the Hoosier state. Mrs. Eckhart was born on the Scott county farm of her parents, February 17, 1884, her father being Giles J. and her mother Rhoda A. Rice. The latter was a native of Jefferson county, and the former, of Scott county. Mrs. Eckhart is an only child. Her paternal grandfather was Ebenezer Rice, a native of North Carolina, and his father, also named Ebenezer, was an early settler of Scott county, entering the land where Giles, who was born on June 29, 1845, now lives. The mother of Mrs. Eckhart was the daughter of Samuel McCurry of North Carolina, who came to Indiana in her early history, settling in Jefferson county. Rhoda A. Rice was born on January 27, 1849. Giles J. Rice has been a successful farmer, now in possession of farm lands amounting to four hundred and eighty acres, having recently sold forty acres of his five hundred and twenty.

As the Letts Corner State Bank has played an important part in the life of our subject, it may be of interest to note a few facts regarding this well-known business institution. The Letts State Bank was organized by Leroy A. Eckhart on October 2, 1913, with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand

dollars and deposits amounting to forty-two thousand dollars to forty-five thousand dollars. The bank is operated in its own building, a substantial and artistic structure of brick and stone with dimensions twenty-four by fifty-four feet. The interior furnishings include a tiled floor of beautiful design, handsome office fixtures, and a fire and burglar proof iron vault and safe. The officers of the bank, are: President, Dr. J. A. Welch; vice-president, K. L. Adams; cashier, Leroy A. Eckhart. The directors are J. A. Welch, K. L. Adams, L. A. Eckhart, W. C. Marshall, A. M. Alexander, M. B. Taylor, and Delger Moor.

Mr. Eckhart's political interests have been identified with the Democratic party, and while he has not ranked as a politician, he has always stood for the measures and movements that mean good citizenship. Mr. and Mrs. Eckhart are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which their influence has been a distinctive force for good. Mr. Eckhart believes in the beneficial effects of social organizations, and is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Deputy, Indiana, and of Lodge No. 506 at Beechwood.

As an evidence of Mr. Eckhart's business ability, it may be noted that he is the owner of eighty acres of valuable land in Scott county.

It may be seen from the above brief sketch that, although its subject is a young man, his life and work have already come to occupy an important place in the economic and social affairs of the town in which he has made his home since boyhood. Although his life has not been characterized by adventure or unusual incident, it has had in some degree the elements of greatness. It has been marked by honor and integrity in business transactions, by fidelity to high ideals, and by a uniform courtesy and kindness in associations with his fellowmen. Such a career cannot fail to be an incentive to others.

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#### HENRY C. KIRBY.

A career of earnest and indefatigable application to the peaceful pursuits of life was that of Henry C. Kirby, a veteran of the Civil War, and for many years an honored resident of Adams township, this county. His fidelity as a soldier during the Civil War and his high patriotism as a citizen of the American union of states were distinct characteristics of his honorable life. In all his relations with his fellowmen, he gained and held the confidence and esteem of the public and at his death his loss was widely mourned by the people of Adams township.



Henry C. Kirby, who was born in Decatur county, Indiana, was the son of Clay Madison Kirby, a native of Kentucky, whose wife, the mother of the late H. C. Kirby, died when the latter was a small child. Some years after her death, Clay M. Kirby married, secondly, Tirza Meek, a member of one of the old and respected families of this county. H. C. Kirby grew to manhood on his father's farm in Decatur county and when the Civil War broke out, enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, serving until he was taken ill and discharged for disability.

After the war, Henry C. Kirby began farming in Decatur county. He married Epsie Guthrie and after her death, about ten years later, was married, in 1881, to Ada McClerkin, the daughter of James and Martha (Meek) McClerkin, the latter of whom was the daughter of Thomas Meek, a son of Adam Meek, one of the prominent pioneer settlers of this county. James McClerkin was a native of Decatur county, a farmer by occupation and a well-known and well-respected citizen of the county. To this second union one child was born, a son, Harry M., born on March 9, 1884, in Adams township, this county.

After the second marriage of the late H. C. Kirby, he and his wife began life in Adams township on a farm. He was an ardent Republican and patriotic citizen. He was a devoted member of the Baptist church, as is his widow, and their son was reared in that faith. Mr. Kirby died on March 19, 1905, and he was widely mourned, for he was a good man.

Among the prosperous young farmers of Adams township, Harry M. Kirby, the son of the late H. C. Kirby, takes high rank. He owns a fine farm of one hundred and ten acres, lying to the north of Adams, land of the very finest quality. Mr. Kirby is known as one of the most progressive young business men and farmers in that part of the county, specializing in pure-bred, big type Poland China hogs.

Upon completing the course in the Adams high school, Harry M. Kirby studied and mastered telegraphy. After an apprenticeship of about ten months, he was given a position with the Big Four Railroad, which he held for nine years. During the past five years, however, he has devoted his energies to the business of progressive farming, to which he intends to devote the remainder of his life. Mr. Kirby is a bright young man with a promising future before him. He is possessed naturally of a likeable personality and is so constituted that his friends predict he will win recognition in his chosen field of endeavor. He is one of the "true-blue" variety of Republicans in his political affiliation and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

at Adams and has attained to the encampment of that order. He is also a member of the Baptist church, as is his mother. Mrs. Kirby is a woman of strong and forceful character, of grace and charming personality. Possessed of a cheerful, optimistic disposition, she is popular in a large circle of friends and especially popular in church work, to which she devotes a considerable portion of her time.

The Kirby family for two or three generations has been prominent in the agricultural, civic and political life of this township, earnest and sincere people, conscientious in giving to the world a full measure of performance in all of the duties of life.

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#### EDWIN DOBYNS DONNELL.

Nowhere in Indianapolis is there held out a warmer welcome on behalf of Decatur county folk than in Room 11, the state house, where Edwin D. Donnell, clerk of the bureau of public printing of the state of Indiana, holds forth; and visitors from this county are assured that the latch string of Room 11 ever is hanging free when they are passing through the corridors of the state capitol.

Mr. Donnell, who is a native son of Decatur county, has had an interesting career as a printer and newspaper man. In 1911 he was honored by the Indiana State Legislature, receiving in January of that year the appointment by the Legislature to the important position of purchasing agent of the General Assembly, a position in which he displayed such a fine grasp of the state's needs in the way of public printing that the state bureau of public printing further honored him by making him clerk of the board, a position which he since has held and the duties of which he has discharged with such fidelity and with so high a regard for the state's best interest as to merit the praise of those in authority; a meed of praise which is given as ungrudgingly as it is well deserved. During former sessions of the Legislature the alleged looseness with which affairs connected with the printing department and the furnishing of legislative supplies had been conducted amounted at times almost to an open scandal and the 1911 Legislature determined to put a stop to this loose manner of conducting affairs in that department. To this end it was decided to put the whole matter of the purchasing of supplies into the hands of an accredited agent of the General Assembly. It was a matter of general congratulation on the part of Decatur county folk when the news was given out that a Decatur county man, Edwin D. Donnell, had received

the appointment to this highly responsible and important position. That Mr. Donnell did his work well was attested when, at the close of the session of the Legislature, the state printing board appointed him to the responsible position of clerk of the bureau of public printing, the department of state which conducts the business connected with the large amount of printed matter which is required for state uses. Mr. Donnell is very popular with the Decatur county colony at the state capital and still retains the warmest interest in Decatur county affairs. Few native sons of this county have a wider acquaintance hereabout than he and the following biography will be read with interest by all.

Edwin Dobyngs Donnell was born at Clarksburg, Decatur county, Indiana, November 11, 1861, son of William Addison and Mary E. (Dobyngs) Donnell, the former of whom also was born in Clarksburg, a son of Luther S. and Jane Wright (Braden) Donnell, natives of Kentucky, who came to Decatur county at an early day and settled on a farm one mile southeast of Clarksburg, becoming prominent in the pioneer life of that community. In later years they moved into the town of Greensburg, where Luther S. Donnell died. Jane Wright Donnell, who lived to the age of ninety-two, spent her last years in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Hamilton, at Clarksburg.

William Addison Donnell was reared on the paternal farm near Clarksburg, remaining there until 1865, in which year he moved to Greensburg, this county, where he engaged in the hardware and farm implement business, later buying the Greensburg foundry, which he operated for some time. In 1878 he purchased the *Decatur County Press*, changing the name of the same to the *Decatur News*, and it was on this paper that Edwin D. Donnell received his initiation into the printing and newspaper business. In 1885 Mr. Donnell sold the *Decatur News* to James E. Mendenhall, present mayor of Greensburg, who gave the paper a new name, the *New Era*.

In 1886 Edwin D. Donnell bought an interest in this paper, retaining the same for three years, at the end of which time he sold his interest to Mr. Mendenhall and in 1889 went to Greeley, Colorado, where for four years he published the *Greeley Sun*, selling the paper in 1893 to Brent Patton, another Decatur county boy. Mr. Donnell then returned to Greensburg, shortly afterward going to Springfield, Ohio, where, from April to September, he was foreman of the mechanical department of the *Springfield Republic-Times*. He again returned to Greensburg and for one year was associated with Allen W. Clark in the publication of the *New Era*, as foreman of the composing room. At the end of this time he bought a third interest in the *Greensburg Review* and was thus connected with the publication of that paper for one

year and six months. He then went to Elwood, Indiana, where, for a year, he acted as head of the advertising department of the *Elwood Courier*. In 1899 Mr. Donnell moved to Cincinnati, in which city he was employed in a job-printing house until the fall of 1905, at which time he went to Nashville, Tennessee. In January of 1906 he returned to Greensburg, taking the position of superintendent of the mechanical department of *The Baptist Observer*, a position which he retained for more than three years. He then was engaged for a year as foreman of the composing room of the *Greensburg News* and in June of 1910 went to Indianapolis, in which city he was employed as foreman of the plant of the Capitol Printing Company until January, 1911. At that time he was appointed purchasing agent of the Indiana Legislature, and at the close of the session of 1911 was appointed clerk of the state bureau of public printing, a position which he is still filling to the entire satisfaction of the authorities composing that important bureau of the state service.

Mr. Donnell received his education in the Greensburg high school and in the Agricultural-Mechanical College at Ashland, the old home of Henry Clay, near Lexington, Kentucky. In 1888 Edwin Dobyns Donnell was united in marriage to Ollie Rogers, who was born in Switzerland county, Indiana, daughter of Edward H. and Mary Jane (Skull) Rogers, both of whom were born near Vevay, Switzerland county, the former of English and the latter of German descent. During her early childhood the parents of Ollie Rogers moved to Greensburg and it was in that city Mr. Donnell's wife was reared and there she received her education. Edward H. Rogers traveled for the Standard Oil Company for a period of thirty years or more and died at Hope, Indiana, in 1909.

To Edwin D. and Ollie (Rogers) Donnell one child has been born, a son, Clifton E., who was born at Greeley, Colorado, in 1892. He was graduated from the Manual Training high school at Indianapolis and is a member of the 1916 class of the Indiana Dental College.

Mr. and Mrs. Donnell are members of the Christian church and take an active interest in church work. Mr. Donnell is a member of the Masonic lodge at Irvington, his home being located in that beautiful suburb of Indianapolis, and is a member of Keystone chapter, of the same order. He also is a member of the Knights of Pythias, retaining his membership in lodge No. 148 of that order at Greensburg. He is a member of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Indiana Democratic Club. He is exceedingly popular among his associates and enjoys the highest confidence and esteem of state-house circles.



## GEORGE W. MOOR.

One of the large commercial enterprises of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, is the mercantile firm of Moor & Crise, located at Letts, Indiana, and capitalized at twenty-five thousand dollars. This firm had its beginning about twenty-five years ago, when George W. Moor engaged in the hardware business at Letts. This firm now operates a grain elevator and has a large retail trade in seeds and flour. It also operates a lumber and coal yard and sells all kinds of building material, lumber, cement, lime, plaster, tile and stone to the people of Jackson, Sand Creek and Clay townships.

George W. Moor, the senior member of the firm of Moor & Crise, was born, December 31, 1853, in Decatur county, Indiana, on a farm, the son of William Oliver and Margaret J. (Forbes) Moor, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, Indiana, September 23, 1825, and who was killed by a fall from a horse, in Sand Creek township, June 27, 1885. The latter also was born in this state. William Oliver Moor was a son of Edwin, a native of New York, who when a boy of nine years was brought to Ohio by his father, Ezra Moor, who, after living for a time near Cincinnati, removed to Franklin county, and later entered a tract of land in Jackson township, the farm where M. B. Taylor now lives. Here he cleared the land and lived until his death. As nearly as it can be ascertained he must have come to Jackson township during the early forties. William Oliver Moor, who was a carpenter by trade, followed this occupation in Jackson and Sand Creek townships and farmed to some extent. He died at the home of his son, George W., the subject of this sketch. His wife, who before her marriage was Margaret J. Forbes, died in 1872. They were the parents of seven children, as follow: John E. lives in Iowa; George W. is the subject of this sketch; Riley F. lives in Kansas; William L. lives in Washington; James M. lives in Mason City, Iowa; Mrs. Ina L. Birch lives in Seattle, and Mary E. is deceased.

Educated in the common schools of Decatur county and in the Harts-ville school, George W. Moor was for fifteen years a teacher in Jackson, Sand Creek and Adams townships. Five years of this period were spent as a teacher in Harris City. During the last five years of Mr. Moor's experience as a teacher he was also engaged in farming, and later he devoted himself exclusively to farming for five years in Sand Creek township. From 1891 to 1895 he was engaged in the hardware business, and this business was the beginning of his present large enterprise. In 1895 he also engaged in the grain business and in 1910 he took Mr. Crise as a partner in the firm. They

have a large and profitable trade in this part of Decatur county, and one which has been builded upon careful business methods and a careful regard of the wants and needs of their patrons. The success is due in no small measure to the cordial relations that Mr. Moor has sustained towards the public.

In 1876 George W. Moor was married to Mary Ferris, daughter of Andrew Ferris of Marion township, who is the brother of J. W. Ferris of the same township. Mrs. Moor was born, September 23, 1851. To Mr. and Mrs. George W. Moor have been born five children, Forrest G., Jessie, Stella, Raymond and Carol. Of these children, Forrest G., of Warren, Ohio, is a mechanical engineer and superintendent of the Chicago and Cleveland Car Roofing Company. He married Louise Cooper, and they have three children, Dorothy, Gladys and Eleanor. Jessie is the wife of Grover W. Crise, Mr. Moor's partner. They have four children, Mary, David, Amy and Roger. Stella lives at homes and is a teacher in the Letts high school. She was graduated from DePauw University with the class of 1911. Raymond F., of Warren, Ohio, was associated with his brother, and is now working with his father. He married Zora Purvis. Carol W., a book-keeper for his father's firm is a graduate of the Letts high school.

In politics, George W. Moor has always been an ardent Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Moor and family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They are well known throughout Sand Creek, Jackson and Clay townships and are highly respected residents of this community.

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#### JAMES M. WOOD, M. D.

Among the prominent physicians of Greensburg, Indiana, who have been well educated for the medical profession is Dr. James M. Wood, who has been practicing in this city since 1897, a period of eighteen years. In this period he has not only built up a large and extensive practice in Greensburg and Decatur county, but he has also firmly established himself as one of the leading citizens of the city and county and is today a man well known not only in professional circles, but in religious and fraternal circles as well.

James M. Wood was born on October 5, 1860, on a farm six miles south of Greensburg in Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, the son of Lorenzo D. and Elizabeth (Martin) Wood, natives of North Carolina and Decatur county, respectively.

Lorenzo D. Wood was born in Kentucky in 1812, and was left father-

less while very young. With his mother, his uncle Asa and other children, he came to Decatur county in the early twenties. The uncle obtained a farm which is still in possession of the Wood family. Lorenzo D., who entered one hundred and twenty acres of government land and later purchased forty acres, cleared the land and built a log cabin where James M. Wood, the subject of this sketch, was born. The father died of tuberculosis, developing from a cold which he caught while working on a straw stack. James M. Wood's mother, who before her marriage was Elizabeth Martin, was born on November 26, 1819, and died on November 26, 1900. She was the daughter of John and Polly (Meredith) Martin, the latter of whom was the daughter of William Meredith, one of the pioneers of Decatur county. John Martin, a Kentuckian by birth, settled in Decatur county in 1815 and lived to be a very old man. Lorenzo D. Wood, the father of James M., died in 1863.

Reared on the farm and educated in the country schools of Decatur county, James M. Wood obtained his professional education in the medical department of the University of Tennessee at Nashville, being graduated with the class of 1888. In the meantime, he had taught school for five years to earn money with which he might attend medical college. During this period he was located on the old home farm with his mother near Gaynorsville. After graduating from the medical department of the University of Tennessee, Doctor Wood was located for ten years on the home farm with his mother. Shortly after being graduated from the University of Tennessee, he attended the Chicago Polyclinic College, taking a post graduate course and in 1897 he was a student at the Miami Medical College at Cincinnati. On December 1, 1897, Doctor Wood moved to Greensburg, Indiana.

Doctor Wood is a member of the Decatur County, the Indiana State and the American Medical Association. He is the owner of a farm of one hundred and four acres two and one-half miles southeast of Greensburg, which is devoted to general farming and which he personally oversees. It is one of the best farms to be found in Decatur county. Doctor Wood has his residence at 418 North Broadway.

In November, 1897, James M. Wood was married to Laura M. Fiscus, the daughter of George W. and Catherine Fiscus, natives of Decatur and Franklin counties, respectively. Mrs. Wood was born October 29, 1865 and died November 27, 1913, leaving one child, Eura, aged eleven years. Her death came as a distinct shock to her husband and to the community at large by whom she was greatly admired. A woman of noble instincts, considerate, loving and tender in the home, her loss is keenly felt.

Dr. James M. Wood is a member of the Baptist church and, as far as it is

consistent with the practice of his profession, is a regular attendant at religious services. He is independent politically, supporting principles which he deems to be expedient and sound politically and economically, rather than party emblems. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

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### JOHN FEAR.

John Fear, a retired farmer living with his daughter one and one-half miles west of Letts in Sand Creek township, was born ninety-two years ago in Harrison county, Kentucky. Twelve years after his birth he was brought to Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, by his parents. He has lived ever since in this county. Today he is one of the few remaining pioneers of the county and has seen the county developed from a primeval forest, its log cabins, its log rollings, its spelling bees, all the hardships incident to pioneer life, to its present proud position as one of the pre-eminent agricultural sections of this country. Life is vastly different today from what it was a century ago when there were no roads, few houses and few neighbors. Today the county is thickly populated with progressive and prosperous citizens, who enjoy most of the comforts available to people in the cities. The venerable John Fear has had a part in this wonderful transformation and all of it he has personally witnessed.

John Fear was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, on September 3, 1823, the son of William H. and Delilah (Lantern) Fear, the former of whom was a native of Virginia, but who emigrated to Kentucky with his mother when a young man and settled in Harrison county, Kentucky, where he was married. It was there that six of the seven children were born. In 1835 William H. Fear emigrated to Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, and settled on a farm, where he lived for three years. This farm was owned by Abel Todd. Subsequently, he entered land of his own, and as soon as the trees were deadened, he built himself a log cabin in the wilderness and moved to his own domain. The farm entered by William H. Fear lies in the southern part of Clay township, and is now owned by Elmer Woodruff. Here John Fear started his life in this county, grew to manhood and performed the tasks which fell to the lot of the average pioneer boy.

John Fear was married, when twenty-nine years old, to Harriett Williams, a daughter of Samuel Williams. Samuel Williams was born in Virginia, and came to Decatur county when a young man. Mr. and Mrs. John



Fear started life on a farm in Jackson township, Decatur county, and after renting land for some three years, Mr. Fear purchased forty acres and added to this tract from time to time until he owned a hundred and seventy-four acres. Mrs. Fear died on August 19, 1911. Since that time, John Fear has made his home with his daughter. He and his wife had eight children, of whom only three are living, as follow: Mrs. Julia (Fear) Holmes lives in Sand Creek township; Edmund lives near Hartsville, in Jackson township; and William Samuel lives four and one-half miles west of Letts in Jackson township.

Mr. Fear is a Democrat and is not afraid to express his political thought and sentiments. He is a member of the Baptist church.

John Fear has been a good citizen, a man who has always taken a worthy interest in the happiness and comforts of his neighbors and one who has performed well all the duties of life, both public and private. He has helped to clear the forests, drain the swamps and establish a comfortable home in the wilderness. Today he is held in high regard by a host of people in Sand Creek township who have known him for many years.

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#### ABRAM F. VENNER.

To begin life on the farm with no capital except health, strength and determination, and to win success by industrious service, patience and frugal living entitles a man to the respect of his neighbors, and to distinct rank among successful men. This, in brief, is the history of the career of Abram F. Venner, proprietor of "Midway Farm," who owns a rich body of land, consisting of a hundred and twenty acres in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana. Not only does he have land which is naturally productive, but he has increased its fertility by scientific drainage, and by clearing a heavily-wooded tract of thirty-five acres. This farm as it stands now, well fenced and well ditched, with an equipment consisting of a comfortable house, two barns, a granary, wagon shed, tool house, garage, hen houses, and hog houses, has no superior, from the standpoint of earning capacity, in Decatur county.

Tracing back the ancestry of Abram F. Venner we find that he is a great-grandson of a German emigrant, who came to this country about a century ago to establish for his family and himself a home in the new world. In view of the thrift and frugal habits of the German people it is no wonder

Abram F. Venner has carved out for himself the career of a successful man. Abram F. Venner was born on February 10, 1847, in Harrison county, Indiana, the son of John Adams and Jane (Wiseman) Venner, natives of Pennsylvania, and Kentucky, respectively, the former was the son of Jacob Venner, who was in turn the son of the founder of the Venner family in America. After removing from Harrison county to Hartsville to educate his son, John Adams Venner returned to Harrison county, where he died. His younger sons were all educated in Hartsville College. His children in the order of their birth were Elizabeth, Rosann, Malinda, Mary Catherine, John, Daniel, George, William and Abram F.

Educated in the public schools of Harrison county, and in Hartsville College, where he lacked six months of graduation on account of illness, Abram F. Venner taught school for three years at Lanesville, Bogart Springs and Middletown. Well informed and well trained in methodical and careful thinking, Abram F. Venner has applied to the problems of agriculture the logical and consistent reasoning which he acquired during his school days.

It was at Hartsville College that Mr. Venner met his future wife. Abram F. Venner was married, August 12, 1869, to Louisa Belle Rhoher. After their marriage they came at once to their farm, and here they have lived for forty-six years. Mrs. Venner was born, October, 1851, and is the daughter of Simeon and Sarah (Collier) Rhoher, the former of Pennsylvania ancestry, and the latter of Kentucky. Simeon Rhoher moved from Ohio to Indiana. The Rhohers were early settlers in Jackson township, most of them taking government claims and clearing the land for cultivation. Simeon Rhoher's father, John Rhoher, owned one thousand acres of land. He himself owned three hundred acres.

To Mr. and Mrs. Abram F. Venner have been born two children, Jessie (deceased) and Corda De Ella. On March 3, 1887, Corda De Ella married John Warren Smith, who lives with Mr. and Mrs. Venner, and who cultivates eighty acres of land in addition to the Venner farm.

John Warren Smith was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, February 4, 1861, and came to Decatur county, Indiana, in the fall of 1885. He was a school teacher in Kentucky and Indiana several years. Mr. Smith has been one of the leading farmers. Mr. Venner and Mr. Smith have made a specialty of Hereford cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs, Shropshire sheep and Plymouth Rock chickens.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have one child, Bessie Venner, who married Harold Brown Ogden, of Forest Hill, April 7, 1915.

Harold Brown Ogden was born on October 12, 1885. He is a graduate

of Hanover College, Indiana, and took post-graduate work in science at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and Purdue University, Indiana. Mr. Ogden was professor of science for two years at Park College, Parkville, Missouri. He is now farming in Jackson township, this county.

Mr. Venner's career has been too busy to permit him to take any considerable interest in politics, but he is identified with the Republican party. Mr. and Mrs. Venner and family are members of the United Brethren church at Mt. Pleasant.

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### JOHN G. GARTIN.

For years known as one of the most extensive breeders of pure-bred stock, both cattle and hogs, in the middle states; the breeder of a bull, the famous "Monitor," which took first prizes at the state fairs at Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; St. Louis, Missouri; Springfield, Illinois, and at the great cattle show at Madison Square Garden, in New York City, and later and at present known far and wide as the "baby-beef" man, John G. Gartin, a singularly successful farmer of Clay township, this county, needs no introduction to Decatur county readers of this book, but in the interests of history and that future generations may be informed regarding the activities of the Gartin family in this county for the past three or four generations, it is fitting that a genealogical sketch of Mr. Gartin be presented at this point in this volume of biography.

John G. Gartin was born in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, just one mile west of where the town of Burney now is situated, on June 14, 1865, the son of Felix and Dorcas (Pavy) Gartin, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families, the latter of whom was the daughter of John T. and Nancy Pavy, also natives of Clay township, who were born not far from where the family now lives. For details regarding the genealogy of the Pavy family the reader is referred to the memorial sketch relating to the late John T. Pavy, presented elsewhere in this volume.

Felix Gartin was the son of Griffith and Mary (Fear) Gartin, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky, who came to Decatur county in the year 1823. Mary Fear was the daughter of William H. Fear, a Virginian, who came to this county with his parents in the year 1825. Both the Gartins and the Fears became prominent in the pioneer affairs of the county, clearing fine farms from the forest wilderness and becoming recognized as



JOHN G. GARTIN.





among the substantial families of that section of the county in which they settled. Griffith Gartin was a man of fine executive ability, energetic and enterprising, and was very successful, being the owner of seven hundred or eight hundred acres of land at the time of his death. He was a thorough-going business man and became one of Decatur county's most successful dealers in live stock, his specialty being mules and cattle, his eight sons taking charge of his extensive farming interests. He was an ardent Whig and exerted considerable influence over the political destinies of the county. He and his wife were devoted adherents of the Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith, the family becoming a strong moral influence throughout that whole section of the county. Griffith Gartin is recalled by those of his contemporaries who are still living as a man of noble characteristics, generous to a fault and ever ready to lend a helping hand to those less comfortably circumstanced than himself. He died at the comparatively early age of forty-nine years, just in the prime of his life and in the midst of his greatest activities and was sincerely mourned throughout that whole region.

To Griffith and Mary (Fear) Gartin were born nine children, namely: Felix, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, who died on January 24, 1902; Edmund, who married Alice Bruce, of Sand Creek township, this county, and lives at Marion, Indiana; Rev. C. M. (deceased), a one-time well-known minister of the Baptist church; William H., who lives at Spannburg, Texas; Mrs. Nancy Ann Hanna-Cristler, who lives in the state of Pennsylvania; Nugent, who lives at Columbus, Ohio; Z. T. (deceased); W. H., a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county, and Griffith, of Muncie, Indiana, one of the most widely-known auctioneers in that part of the state.

Felix Gartin received a careful training on the home farm, as did all of Griffith Gartin's sons; he was educated at Hartsville College and early prepared to take an active part in the affairs of the community. When the call to arms came at the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted for service in behalf of the Union cause and was attached to the Eleventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, a part of General Sherman's army, known to fame as "the bloody Eleventh." He served through the historic siege of Vicksburg and on July 12, 1863, during the memorable battle at Jackson, Mississippi, received a severe wound, from which he never fully recovered, suffering from the after effects of the same all the rest of his life. The disability due to this wound became so pronounced that in November, 1863,

he was discharged from the service, returning home shortly thereafter, and was unable to re-enlist.

In August, 1864, Felix Gartin was united in marriage to Dorcas Pavy, a member of an old and prominent family in this county, and to this union the following children were born: John G., the subject of this sketch; Nancy Ann, wife of John E. Robbins, of Sand Creek township; James W., of Rushville, Indiana; Tillie, deceased.

Felix Gartin was a man of high ideals and in his neighborhood ever was recognized as a man whose "word was as good as his bond." He and his good wife were leaders in the social and religious life of the community in which they lived and ever exerted a wholesome influence upon the lives of those about them. They were members of the Baptist church and were among the leaders in the local congregation, being active in all good works, and were held in the highest regard throughout that whole section. Felix Gartin was a charter member of the lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Burney, and ever took an earnest interest in the affairs of that popular fraternal organization. He was an extensive feeder and shipper of live stock, his specialty being Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs, the firm of F. Gartin & Sons, shippers, being well known in live stock circles throughout Indiana and neighboring states. He had hosts of firm friends throughout the county and all through this part of the state and his death, in 1902, was widely mourned. His widow, who was a most excellent woman, died on March 10, 1915.

John G. Gartin was reared on the old home farm and was educated in the common schools of this county, this schooling being supplemented by a course at Hartsville College and a course at Franklin College. His health failing before his studies were completed, he was unable to graduate, much to his regret, and upon returning home became an active assistant in his father's extensive farming and shipping operations. The breeding of pure-bred hogs became his specialty, Poland Chinas being his choice of this form of stock. A little later he began in earnest the breeding of Shorthorn cattle and while thus engaged bred the champion herd leader, "Monitor," the victories of which famous bull in the way of prizes in the great stock shows of the country are detailed in a preceding paragraph of this narrative. Mr. Gartin became an unusually successful cattle breeder and for four years served as secretary of the Shorthorn Breeders' Association and for two years was honored by the election to the presidency of that organization. He also gave considerable attention to the breeding of pure-bred horses, both speed and draft, but years ago discontinued that line of the stock business. In 1893

he sold his famous Shorthorn herd and retired from the business, but in 1900 he restocked his farm with the same favorite breed of cattle and achieved new successes as a breeder, continuing in the business until 1913, in which year he again sold his herd. In recent years Mr. Gartin has achieved a wide reputation as the "baby-beef man," he being a pioneer in the now well-recognized line of handling fine hand-fed stock for select markets. He was the first man in this part of Indiana to take up the "baby beef" business and has become one of the most successful dealers in that form of stock in the country, having created a very choice market for his "baby beef" in the East, his product being quite too choice for the demand of the Chicago and Indianapolis markets. In preparing his "baby beef" for the market, Mr. Gartin feeds from sixty to seventy-five pounds of "black-strap" feeding molasses and from thirty to forty tons of cotton-seed meal, this diet imparting to the flesh of his stock that fine flavor so much desired by Eastern epicures. He feeds an average of one hundred to one hundred and ten head each year.

On February 4, 1886, John G. Gartin was united in marriage to Mary R. Alexander, who was born in this county, daughter of A. J. and Charlotte (Steward) Alexander, members of two old and influential families hereabout, the genealogy of the Alexander family being set out in the biographical sketch relating to Frank Alexander, presented elsewhere in this volume. A. J. Alexander was a native of Ohio, of Scottish extraction, and Charlotte Steward was a native of Ireland.

To John G. and Mary R. (Alexander) Gartin three children have been born, namely: Earl F., born on April 4, 1888, a well-known auctioneer, of Burney, this county, who owns a farm west of the home place and lives in Burney; Lottie D., January 9, 1891, who married Donald Webb and lives in Shelby county, this state, and Charles A., August 29, 1898, living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Gartin are members of the Baptist church and are devoted to the welfare of the community in which they live, being among the leaders in all good works thereabout. Mr. Gartin is an active, energetic, enterprising citizen and is regarded as one of the most substantial men in Decatur county. He and Mrs. Gartin have hosts of friends throughout the county and they and the members of their family are held in the highest regard by all.

Mr. Gartin is a Republican and has held township offices. He is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias, in which fraternity he has filled all the chairs and is past chancellor. Mr. Gartin is one of the heavy stockholders in the bank at Burney, Indiana.



## ISAAC NEWTON WYNKOOP.

It is interesting, especially to young men just starting out on the highway of life, to understand the story of the toil and struggle of men whose success in life has already been attained. There is a flavor of romance in the career of any successful man. For instance, Isaac Newton Wynkoop, a farmer of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, began his married life in 1874, when he had less than one hundred dollars in money or property. During the first years of his married life he and his wife lived in an old log house and rented land. His first financial venture was the purchase of eighty acres of land on credit, which he eventually paid for, and then purchased forty-one acres on the west of his original farm. Subsequently he bought forty acres more, for which he was able to pay cash. Still later he purchased a hundred and thirty acres of improved land, but this was only four years ago. At this time, however, when eleven thousand dollars was required to pay for the farm, he paid all of it in cash except fourteen hundred dollars. For his first tract of eighty acres Mr. Wynkoop paid forty dollars an acre. For the second tract of forty-one acres he paid fifty dollars an acre; for the third tract of forty acres he paid seventy-five dollars, and for the last he paid practically eighty-five dollars an acre. Thus has the value of farming land increased in the past quarter century.

As Mr. Wynkoop's wealth grew he was able to provide himself, his wife and his children with greater comfort and about 1894 began extensive building operations. He now has one of the most attractive homes in Sand Creek township. There are four barns included in two sets of buildings. Altogether Mr. Wynkoop owns now two hundred and ninety-one acres of land, worth probably thirty thousand dollars. His home farm is worth at least two hundred dollars an acre and is well improved. Mr. Wynkoop rents out his corn land.

Born on February 24, 1850, on a farm in Franklin county, Isaac Newton Wynkoop is the son of James and Barbara (Hetterick) Wynkoop, the former was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, July 19, 1817, and died, February 27, 1893, and the latter was born, January 23, 1817, in Pennsylvania, and died, November 30, 1903. James Wynkoop was brought to Franklin county, Indiana, by his parents when a lad of four years, and they, in 1853, came to Decatur county, purchasing a farm where the village of Horace is now situated. Mrs. Barbara Wynkoop was the daughter of John and Catherine Hetterick. She was married to James Wynkoop, February 27, 1840. Of the ten children born to James and Barbara (Hetterick)

Wynkoop all are now living except two, Mrs. Mary McCracken who was the wife of Thomas McCracken, and Mrs. Rebecca McCracken who was the wife of James McCracken. They were the third and fourth born in a family of five sons and five daughters. The living children are as follow: Mrs. Sarah Howell, of Kansas; William, a veteran of the Civil War and a farmer of Clay township; Mrs. Martha Myers, the wife of J. A. Myers, of Washington township; Isaac N., the subject of this sketch; John, who lives near Waldron, in Shelby county; James, of Sand Creek township; Charles, who lives with his brother William, in Clay township; and Mrs. Nevada Davis, the wife of John L. Davis, of Letts Corner.

On September 31, 1874, at the age of twenty-four, Isaac Newton Wynkoop was married to Mary Elizabeth McGee, who was born on April 8, 1854, in Sand Creek township, within one-half mile of her present home. Mary Elizabeth McGee was the daughter of Ralph and Sarah (Jones) McGee, the former was born, January 8, 1827, and died, June 20, 1909, and the latter was born, April 12, 1832, and died, February 3, 1906. Ralph McGee was the son of John McGee, a native of Ireland, who emigrated to Butler county, Ohio, in 1810. John McGee was a soldier in the War of 1812. A tailor by occupation, he married Jane Cassell. The late Ralph McGee, who began life a poor boy, became a very wealthy man, and in March, 1853, removed to Decatur county, Indiana. He was a pioneer breeder of Poland China hogs, and established a tile factory in this county, which he operated for many years. He was known as a good man and a faithful and loyal member of the Baptist church. In politics he was a Republican. His wife was a woman of most lovable disposition, a woman of strong religious nature, conscientious and kind-hearted not only in her own family, but in the neighborhood where she lived. She knew what it meant to toil as did also her husband, who had made his own way in the world from the time he was ten years old. At the time they came to Decatur county in 1853 they purchased a hundred and forty-one acres of land in Washington township, and here they lived to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. Ralph McGee's land was well improved and especially well drained with tile which he himself had laid.

The McGees have an especially splendid record for longevity. All of the nine children of Ralph and Sarah (Jones) McGee are living. The names of the children in the order of their birth are as follow: John Philip, of Clay township; Mrs. Sarah J. Lundy, of Clay township; William H., of Clay township; Mrs. Mary E. Wynkoop; Charles L., of Greensburg; Ralph T., of Greensburg; George M., of Greensburg; James A., of Washington township; Mattie M., the wife of Edward Samuels, of Washington.

To Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Newton Wynkoop there have been born three children (daughters), two of whom are married, and all of whom are living. Cora, married Ira A. Moore. They have two children, Mabel and Mary, and reside in Clay township. Gertrude married Walter Boling, of St. Paul, Indiana, who is the proprietor of the feed and grist-mill at that place. Martha, the youngest of the family lives at home with her parents.

It can hardly be expected that Mr. Wynkoop has ever busied himself with very much else but his own business. He is a Republican, but has never taken an active interest in politics. He has been too busy with his own personal affairs, providing for himself and his family a competence. Mr. and Mrs. Wynkoop are people of strong religious instincts, and devout and faithful church members. They belong to the Liberty Baptist church. Mr. and Mrs. Wynkoop stand high in the community where they live. Their success is not accidental and their fortune is self acquired. They are delightful people to know, hospitable in their home, kind and considerate to those who have been less fortunate and less successful.

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#### WILLIAM GILMAN STYERS.

Our affection rises and the tenderest and sweetest sentiment of which we are capable flows freely from our hearts when the memory of those whom we have loved comes back to us. This is especially true of the memory of a man who, upon passing to the other shore, leaves behind a devoted wife and loving children. It is a grim fact that we never quite appreciate those who are near and dear to us until their work is fully ended and they are gone from us. Somehow it is difficult to get or retain proper perspective on the life of one who lives among us. This may be especially true of a father or a mother, or a son or daughter. The late William Gilman Styers, of Sand Creek township, was a man who performed worthily the common and simple duties of life, who gave a full and liberal measure of service and unstinted love and affection to his wife and to his children. And notwithstanding the fact that he now belongs to a past generation, his work and his love and his tenderness go on to affect for good the lives of those whom he knew best and loved best on this earth.

William Gilman Styers was born on January 16, 1844, in Greensburg, Indiana, and died on March 20, 1915, on the old home farm in Sand Creek township. His parents were intimately connected with the very earliest his-

tory of this county. His father and mother moved to a farm south of Greensburg, where was located the famous old House mill in 1854. The father died on the farm, but his wife lived in Greensburg during the six years immediately preceding her death. William and Sarilda (Robbins) Styers, the parents of William Gilman, had three other sons. Only one member of the family, Charles F., who was born on March 16, 1856, is now living. His home is at Indianapolis. Of the deceased children, John M., the eldest, died in infancy; William G. was the second born; Samuel E., the third born, was born on July 8, 1868.

William Gilman Styers' mother, who before her marriage was Sarilda Robbins, was the daughter of William and Eleanor (Anderson) Robbins, and was born in October, 1823. She had three brothers, as follow: John E., who was born on February 20, 1825, and who married Nancy O. Hunter; James G., who was born on June 10, 1827, and who married Elmira Stout; and Merrit H., who was born in 1829, and who married Jeannette Gilchrist. William Robbins died on February 3, 1868, and his wife, Eleanor, died four years later.

The genealogy of the Robbins family in America begins with Bethiah Vickery, who was born December 1, 1760, and who married William Robbins. To them were born three children, Albe, Charity and Benjamin. William Robbins was killed in the Revolutionary War soon after enlisting and his widow married a second William Robbins in Guilford county, North Carolina. To this couple were born nine children, namely: Elizabeth, born on February 5, 1788; Marmeduke and Jacob, May 15, 1783; Polly, April 9, 1791; Nathaniel, April 5, 1793; John, February 8, 1795; William, August 6, 1797; and Dosha, May 20, 1804. William Robbins, the second husband of Mrs. Robbins, was born on October 21, 1761, in Randolph county, North Carolina. In October, 1777, when sixteen years of age, he enlisted in the Revolutionary army, serving until 1781 under Capt. Joseph Clark and Colonel Dugan and Col. Anthony Sharp. He left Virginia for Henry county, Kentucky, and 1821 came to Decatur county, settling nine and one-half miles south of Greensburg. Here he made a home among the timbered hills. Trees were cleared away and a new log house of one room was erected, with a shed in which was built a loom for weaving carpet and many kinds of cloth. On September 11, 1834, William Robbins passed away and was buried at Mt. Pleasant cemetery. The third William Robbins, heretofore referred to in the children born to the second William Robbins and Bethiah Vickery, was born in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. He was taken by his parents to Henry county, Kentucky, and accompanied them to Indiana, when the



family came in 1821, when he was twenty-four years of age. He selected the site for a home for himself about one and one-half miles north of his father's home, but the next year returned to Kentucky and was married to Eleanor Anderson, of that state. Upon returning to his new home with his bride, three sisters and two brothers, John and Nathaniel, settled in the same vicinity. A short time later other relatives of the Robbins family came to the same township. The Robbins family became prominent both as to numbers and influence in the early affairs of this section. Nathaniel Robbins was the first justice of the peace in Sand Creek township. William and Eleanor Robbins lived on the farm originally selected as their home the remainder of their lives.

On May 16, 1868, William Gilman Styers was married to Dorinda Frances Wright, who was born on March 28, 1848, north of Harris City, and who is the daughter of Thomas A. and Mary J. (Wallace) Wright, natives of Rockbridge county, Virginia, and early settlers in Decatur county. Mrs. Styers' mother died when she was four years old. Thomas A. and Mary J. Wright were the parents of seven children. Of these children, George W., the oldest, died in 1890 at the Styers home; James, in the Odd Fellows home in Greensburg; Franklin is deceased; Charles Whitcomb lives in Indianapolis; John M. is deceased; Mrs. Styers was the next born; Joseph A., the youngest, who lives at Madison, Indiana, was born in 1851. Joseph A. was reared in Decatur county and has made his home in Madison for twenty years. He is a traveling salesman and married Mary Squires, who is now deceased. They had one child, Emma.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Styers they began housekeeping just south of Greensburg in a little cottage on the hill, where they lived for two years, and then moved to a farm a short distance away. Subsequently they removed to another farm, where they lived for one year, and in 1873 moved to Missouri. Seven years later they returned to this state, and purchased a farm near Harris City, where Mr. Styers now resides. Originally, Mr. and Mrs. Styers owned a hundred and seventy-five acres, but they have sold a part of the land, and now have a hundred and forty-three acres.

William Gilman Styers served in the hospital corps of the Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War. He was a Republican in politics until 1905, when he identified himself with the Prohibition party, on account of his strong and violent dislike of the liquor traffic. A member of the Baptist church before his marriage, he later identified himself with the Union Baptist church. For many years before his death he had charge of the cemetery where he is now buried. •

Mr. and Mrs. William Gilman Styers had four children, the youngest, Charles, died in 1896. Of the other children, Mrs. Effie Robbins, the wife of Charles Robbins, of Horace, has five children, Harry Walter, Marie, Corina and Millard, of whom Walter married Grace Ferris and they have three children, Gerald, Roy and an infant. William T., the second child, who lives in Indianapolis, married Parl Wright, of Adams, and they have two children, Wayne and Mary. Mrs. Minnie Jackson, the third child, has three children, namely: Mabel, who married a Mr. Samuels and has one child, Martha; Ruby Frances, who married Charles Folkerson; and Hazel.

The memory of the late William Gilman Styers will not fade as the years go by, or be dimmed by passing events. His place in the hearts of his family, his neighbors and his friends is secure. He was a good husband, a good father and a good citizen.

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#### WILLIAM S. FEAR.

Among the farmers and citizens of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, who are natives of this township and county and who in the course of long lives have established comfortable homes here and taken a place in the foremost ranks of the citizens of this county is William S. Fear, who owns a hundred and thirty-three acres of land in Jackson township. Mr. Fear purchased this farm in 1900, and took up his residence there the same year. He has a splendid farm home situated on a well-graveled and widely-traveled highway, a farm which is well improved and made up of very rich soil, one of the best to be found in Jackson township.

William S. Fear was born on August 22, 1860, in Jackson township and has lived in Decatur county all his life. He is the son of the venerable John Fear, who is now a resident of Sand Creek township, and who was born in 1823 in Kentucky. At the age of ninety-three years he is now one of the oldest men in Decatur county. At present he makes his home with Julia Holmes, of Sand Creek township. He is the son of William H. Fear, also a native of Kentucky, who brought his family to Decatur county and settled in Clay township in 1833 with the Gartins, of Clay township. John Fear married Harriet Williams, the daughter of Samuel Williams, a native of Virginia, who came to Jackson township about 1830. Mrs. John Fear was born in 1833 and died in August, 1911, at the age of seventy-eight.

Eight children were born to John and Harriet (Williams) Fear, as fol-

low: Mrs. Julia Holmes, of Sand Creek township; Levi, a resident of Jackson township; Mrs. Artemesia Holmes is deceased; William S. is the subject of this sketch; Barrett, John, Ida and Nancy Ann are all deceased. John Fear is a Democrat and is a member of the Baptist church.

On April 12, 1899, William S. Fear was married to Mattie E. Thurston. They immediately purchased their present farm and built on it a new residence in which they have since lived. Mr. Fear has greatly improved the farm by fences, drains and the erection of out-buildings.

Mrs. Fear was born on November 21, 1864, in Jackson township, the daughter of William and Mary (Evans) Thurston, the former of whom was born in 1839, and died on September 11, 1897, and the latter was born in 1845 and died on August 27, 1897. William Thurston was a native of Jackson township, the son of Lewis and Martha Thurston, natives of Virginia and Franklin county, Indiana, respectively. Lewis Thurston was an early settler of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana. Mary Evans Thurston, a native of Jackson township, was the daughter of Ratliff Evans, who died in 1910 in the West. William and Mary Thurston lived and died in Jackson township on the old Thurston homestead. Of their children, Edward A. lives in Jackson township, Jacob L. lives in Jackson township, and Ora A. in Bartholomew county.

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Fear are members of the Christian church. Mr. Fear is a Democrat.

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#### ROBERT J. DAVIS.

The farm is the granary to the office, the store and the shop. It is the farm which must feed and clothe that section of the population which produces no food or raw material for clothing. Prices for food and clothing have experienced an upward trend for many years and are becoming next to prohibitive for great sections of the population. The conclusion is obvious that the production must be increased if the non-producers of food are to be fed. It is very generally agreed that a shortage of supply has enhanced the price for all classes. There are many causes and explanations for this condition, but the chief cause perhaps is that many of the more capable young men who might be successful farmers are moving into the cities. Consequently, when we find a young man who was reared in the country and who chooses agriculture for his life's vocation and strives to increase the productivity of his land, we must recognize he is doing a social service of inestimable

value. Robert J. Davis, a farmer of Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, who inherited from his father a large tract of land in Clay township, and who might have chosen any occupation or vocation, by remaining upon the farm has conferred upon society a distinct benefit which future generations will not be slow to recognize, since it is such men as he who are helping to maintain the balance between the producers in the country and the consumers in the city.

Robert J. Davis was born on August 3, 1870, in Adams township, on the old Davis homestead, the son of James G. and Sarah E. Davis, both of whom are deceased. The former was born April 26, 1829, and died May 5, 1904. The latter, who, before her marriage, was Sarah E. Braden, was born January 10, 1837, in Decatur county, Indiana, and died June 12, 1911. James G. Davis came to this country from Mayo, Ireland, in 1840, at the age of eleven years, a poor Irish lad, without friends and without resources. Settling in Adams township, Decatur county, he lived there for many years and prospered. A natural trader and financier, he became very wealthy and at the time of his death owned nearly three thousand acres of land. He was a man known far and wide for his sterling integrity and rugged honesty. Of his great holdings in real estate, twelve hundred acres were situated in Daviess county and the remainder in Decatur and Shelby counties. On many occasions, he was called upon by the courts of many counties to administer estates, a most trustworthy and responsible position and one which bears evidence of his reputation, not only of honor and integrity, but of ability as well.

James G. and Sarah E. Davis were the parents of eight children, as follow: Cecelia Jane, deceased; George M. C., deceased; John H., deceased; Mrs. Charles Templeton; Robert J., the subject of this sketch; James G. and Edward W., twins, the former lives on the home farm and the latter near Milford; and Mrs. Luna Smith, of Clay township.

After living on the home place with his parents until he had reached his majority, Robert J. Davis was married and moved to the farm in Clay township. The next year he erected a new house on this land and here he has lived ever since.

On August 13, 1891, Robert J. Davis was married to Jennie Copeland, daughter of Jerome and Nancy O. Copeland. The former was born in Shelby county in 1834 and died on August 17, 1913, and the latter was born on September 15, 1832, in Tennessee, and died on March 25, 1906. Jerome Copeland was the son of Milton L. Copeland, an early settler in Shelby county, Indiana. Mrs. Robert J. Davis, who was the only child born to her



parents, was born August 30, 1873, in Shelby county. He married, secondly, Myrtle Harmon, and they had four children.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Davis are the parents of five children, all of whom are now living, namely: Fern, born July 13, 1893; Ligonel Wellington, March 4, 1896; Fay, March 9, 1898; Roland J., March 16, 1904; and Violet, January 18, 1909. Ligonel W. was graduated from the Greensburg high school in 1913. Fay was graduated from the common school in 1913.

Mr. Davis received four hundred and eighty-seven acres of land, his present farm in Clay township, from his father and has kept the farm in a very high state of cultivation. He has one of the best tracts of land to be found anywhere in the township and it is especially so because of the skillful methods used by its owner. Mr. Davis is a well-known citizen of Decatur county and is recognized today as one of its leading farmers and business men. Mrs. Davis is a member of the United Brethren church. Mr. Davis is a staunch Democrat but has never aspired for office.

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### JOHN H. WOODRUFF.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch has been content to let "well enough" alone, and make the best of the goods the gods provided, with the result of which he should be more than satisfied. He has also done his share towards developing good citizenship in the township in which he resides. He is second to none in his standing in the estimation of his neighbors, and his business transactions have always borne the stamp of honest dealing.

John H. Woodruff, of "Maple Hill Farm," Jackson township, was born, August 10, 1862, on the old Woodruff farm, now owned by Doctor Oldham. He is a son of Enos and Susan (Nowen) Woodruff. After his marriage, Mr. Woodruff lived on the home place until 1902, and after renting for one year he bought the ninety-acre tract on which he now lives. In politics he is a Democrat, and his fraternal membership is with the Knights of Pythias at Letts, Indiana.

Enos Woodruff, father of our subject, was born in September, 1822, in Butler county, and died, August 12, 1899, in Bartholomew county. He was a son of Samuel Woodruff, an early settler of Butler and Franklin counties. His wife was Susan (Bowen) Woodruff, who was born in 1824, and who was a native of Franklin county. She died in August, 1908. They were

married in the thirties, in Franklin county, and came direct to Jackson township, where Mr. Woodruff became a prosperous farmer. To Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff were born the following children: William, Nathan, Eliza, Ezra and John. William Woodruff lives in Hartsville, Indiana; Nathan lives in Jackson township; Eliza became the wife of a Mr. Williams, and lives in Clay township; Ezra lives in California.

John H. Woodruff was united in marriage on January 1, 1888, with Emma Wilson, who was born, December 15, 1863, in Bartholomew county, four miles northeast of Hope. She is a daughter of John and Rachel Wilson, natives of Franklin and Decatur counties, respectively. They moved from Bartholomew county to Jackson township, Decatur county, in 1867, where Mr. Woodruff met his future wife.

John and Rachel Wilson, the parents of Mrs. Woodruff, settled on a farm and lived there until Mrs. Wilson died, on June 18, 1899. Mr. Wilson later moved to Hartsville, where he died May 30, 1910. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom the following grew to maturity, namely: Mary, Barton, Emma, Lida, Nannie, Hattie, Henry and Roy. Mary lives in Berney; Barton is now living at Elizabethtown; Jane is deceased; Lida is living at Hartsville; Nannie married a Mr. Carroll, and lives at Hartsville; Hattie lives at Hartsville; Henry lives in Clay township, and Roy is living at Elizabethtown.

Mr. Woodruff is well respected by all who know him, and has always been an industrious, quiet, law-abiding citizen and active in his attention to his business interests.

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#### GEORGE M. MYERS.

For thirty-five years George M. Myers, a successful farmer of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, has lived on the same farm in this township. Here he has followed farming from year to year, and here he has grown prosperous with each succeeding harvest. He and his good wife have lived to rear a family of two children, who now have homes and families of their own. Here in Sand Creek township the people have had opportunity to know George M. Myers and their verdict should be accepted as to his worth as a citizen. He is a man who is popular in the neighborhood where he lives and a man who is admired for his strength of manhood and moral courage.

George M. Myers, who owns a farm of seventy acres in Sand Creek

township, where he has lived since February 24, 1880, was born on August 11, 1849, near Horace, the son of William H. and Elizabeth (Annis) Myers, the former of whom was born on August 6, 1824, and died on August 8, 1904, and the latter was born on June 29, 1827, and died on May 1, 1900. William H. Myers was a native of Kentucky, the son of George Myers, who settled in Decatur county in the early thirties one mile east of Horace in Sand Creek township. He was a well-known citizen during his day and generation. He was one of four children born to his parents, but he was the only son. The father died at his son's house in 1875. After settling on land one mile east of Horace, William H. Myers subsequently removed to a farm in Sand Creek township. He was known in this community as a hard working, industrious and honest farmer.

William H. and Elizabeth Myers were the parents of ten children, as follow: James A., who was born on July 22, 1847, is a well-known farmer of Washington township; George M., the second born, is the subject of this sketch; John Thomas, October 21, 1851, a farmer of Clay township; William R., July 24, 1854, died in infancy; Alice, July 21, 1857, married a Mr. Sanderson, died, September 11, 1897, near Forest Hill; Eliza L., February 21, 1859, lives in Webb City, Missouri; Harvey M., October 18, 1861; Merritt E., November 25, 1864, lives in Indianapolis; Mrs. Nancy Berry, September 26, 1871, lives in Indianapolis.

George M. Myers was married on March 19, 1873, to Mary A. Taylor, who was born on June 20, 1852, in Sand Creek township, the daughter of George and Hannah (Hill) Taylor, natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Myers are the parents of two children, as follow: Wilbur Taylor, of Indianapolis, married Lillie Van Treese, and they have one child, Walter; Grace Pearl married William H. Mobley, a mule dealer of Clay township, and they have two children, Mary and Franklin Wayne.

Before Mr. and Mrs. Myers removed to their present farm they lived in Clay township for a few years, and after renting land in Sand Creek township for a few years the farm was purchased in 1880. They first purchased fifty-three and one-third acres, most of which was covered by timber. This land has been cleared and in the meantime they have added two tracts until the farm now consists of seventy acres. Originally they lived in an old log cabin made of round logs daubed with mud, having a brick chimney. Several years later Mr. Myers erected a frame dwelling and now has a comfortable country home, well kept and adequate outbuildings, and good fencing. He and his good wife have endured many hardships, but they have as a

result of their early toil and labor a substantial competence for their declining years.

Mr. Myers is a Democrat. The Myers family are all members of the Mount Aerie Baptist church and active in the affairs of this congregation.

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### JOHN FRANK ROBERTSON.

Farming is becoming in these later days a vocation for highly specialized and trained minds. Perhaps there will never come a time when farmers will be able to avoid manual labor altogether. Nevertheless, the work of the farmer has been greatly lightened by the invention of many modern devices and the improvements of many of the instruments of agriculture which it is necessary for the farmer to use. Among other things, farming requires careful planning, the inauguration of a system which is the equal of systems in business. The farmer of the present generation who has failed to catch the progressive spirit of the twentieth century is one who will be left behind sooner or later. With the devices which are now available to the man in the country, the devices which are used for the conveniences not only for the farmer, but also his wife in the home, he is able to live in comparative luxury, while his forefathers were compelled to struggle against much greater odds. John Frank Robertson, a farmer of Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, is prosperous mainly because he has caught the spirit of the twentieth century, and has made of farming a real business.

John Frank Robertson, who is the owner of one hundred and twenty-four and five-tenths acres of land in Adams township, where he has lived for nearly thirty-five years, was born on June 17, 1856, in the township where he resides, three-fourths of a mile from his present home. He is the son of Oliver P. and Mary Ann (Davis) Robertson. Oliver P. Robertson was born on August 1, 1825, and died in 1905, while his wife was born on June 15, 1833, and died on May 25, 1907. Oliver P. Robertson, an early settler of Adams township, though born in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn county, Indiana, was a son of John and Ruth (Ridlen) Robertson, natives of Maryland and early settlers in Dearborn county, Indiana. After coming to Adams township in 1829, the family became prosperous, and for nearly a century was recognized as one of the leading factors in the agricultural life of the community. Mary Ann (Davis) Robertson was a daughter of John W. and Sarah (Forsythe) Davis, natives of New Jersey, who came to Decatur



county about 1830, and settled in Adams township. Oliver P. and Mary Ann (Davis) Robertson were the parents of seven children, all of whom are living, namely: Josiah W., a well-known farmer and stockman of Adams township; John Frank, the subject of this sketch; William, also a resident of Adams township; Charles, living at Acton, Marion county, Indiana; Edwin, a farmer of Adams township; Lydia, the wife of Elmer Shelhorn, and Ruth, living with her two brothers, Josiah and Edwin, for whom she is house-keeper.

Oliver P. Robertson was first married to Nancy Edrington, who was born in 1831, and who died in June, 1852. She was a daughter of Hiram and Rhoda Edrington, natives of Kentucky and pioneer settlers in Adams township, in this county. After coming here they cleared land, built a log house and later erected a large brick house, now owned by E. Shelhorn. Oliver P. and Nancy (Edrington) Robertson had two children, Louisa L., who is deceased, and Lafayette, a farmer of Adams township.

John F. Robertson was educated in the public schools of Adams township and remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-five years of age. Soon after his marriage, he came to his present farm in Adams township and here he has resided ever since.

John Frank Robertson was married on February 22, 1882, to Jennie M. Patterson, who was born on June 3, 1858, in Clinton township, the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Bird) Patterson. The former was a native of county Antrim, Ireland, born on July 12, 1839, the son of Roger and Mary Jane (Hall) Patterson. Roger Patterson, after coming to America, in 1845, located in Clinton township, bringing his family of two sons to this country. He died at the age of thirty-seven years in 1855. The mother was later married to Michael Ryan and had three children by the second marriage. She lived to an advanced age.

In September, 1857, Joseph Patterson was married to Mary Bird, the daughter of William and Maria Bird, natives of Kentucky and Virginia, respectively, who came to Decatur county, Indiana, in the late twenties. William and Maria Bird had eight children, of whom Mrs. Patterson was the seventh. She was born on July 31, 1839, and died on May 1, 1908. Four years after her death, Joseph Patterson married Minerva Bird, a sister of his first wife. The marriage took place on December 9, 1912. Of the children born to Joseph and Mary Patterson, Mrs. Robertson was the eldest. The others were, Harriet, Elizabeth, Nora, John William, James, Charles and Ina.

To Mr. and Mrs. John F. Robertson has been born one child, Millie E.

She was born on February 9, 1884, and was married on February 25, 1907, to Charles W. Lines, who was born on March 1, 1880, the son of William and Lina (Snedeker) Lines, of Rush county. They have one child, Edith Robertson, seven years old, who was born on November 23, 1907.

Mr. Robertson is a Progressive. He and his wife attend the Baptist church at Adams. John F. Robertson is a man who is well known for his industry, his rugged sincerity and his noble and kind impulses. He is pre-eminently worthy to be regarded as one of the representative citizens of Decatur county.

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EDWARD A. PORTER, M. D.

Representative of one of the oldest and best-known of the pioneer families of Decatur county, no citizen of this county is imbued with a loftier spirit of public service than that which animates the life of Dr. Edward A. Porter, a well-known and popular physician of Burney, this county. Interested in all measures which have as their object the elevation of the communal interests hereabout, Doctor Porter brings to the exercise of his duties of citizenship the highest ideals and loftiest impulses; being regarded as one of the most influential of the younger professional men in the county. Admirably trained in the best practices of the healing art, he brings to his practice a mind schooled in the highest ideals and traditions of medicine and a heart warmly devoted to the cause of the amelioration of human ills. Capable and conscientious, it is but natural that Doctor Porter should have a wide and constantly growing practice in the neighborhood in which he has labored so earnestly and unselfishly, and it is not improper to say that no physician in the county enjoys a fuller measure of popular esteem than he. To his public service he brings the same high impulses that actuate his professional services and is regarded as a most useful and helpful citizen, one to whom his fellow citizens are bound by many ties of social obligation. Though having been in practice less than a decade, Doctor Porter has established himself in a manner that speaks well for his professional skill, and his professional brethren in this and neighboring counties extend to him frequent evidences of their confidence and high esteem.

Edward A. Porter was born on a farm in Washington township, three and one-half miles southwest of Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, June 16, 1881, son of Matthew E. and Clarissa (McKinney) Porter, both members

of pioneer families in this county. Matthew E. Porter was born in 1836 in a log cabin that is still standing on the Porter farm in Washington township, and was the son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Elder) Porter, the former of whom was born in Dearborn county, this state, son of a Virginian, who was one of the earliest settlers of Indiana Territory, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Rev. Matthew Elder, a pioneer preacher of the Baptist church, who built the first church in Union county, and was a power for good throughout this entire section of the country. In a biographical sketch relating to James Porter, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is set out in full a genealogy of the Porter family from pioneer times and the reader is respectfully referred to that genealogy for further details regarding Doctor Porter's interesting family connection.

Edward A. Porter was reared on the home farm and was given excellent educational advantages. Following his completion of the course in the local schools, from which he was graduated in 1900, he entered the medical department of the Univeresity of Kentucky, where he studied for two years. He then entered Indiana University and in 1908 was graduated from the school of medicine of that institution. Upon receiving his diploma he entered upon the practice of his chosen profession at Burney and from the very start was successful, completely refuting the oft-repeated statement that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country." Previous to beginning his practice, Doctor Porter had endeared himself to the community by a period of intimate public service in which he gave the best there was in him to the common weal, even as he has done since entering upon his practice. For six years before finishing his medical course, he had taught school in and about Burney, pursuing his medical studies during the summer months and teaching during the winter months. He loved teaching and devoted the whole of his ardent nature to the interests of the children entrusted to his care, with the inevitable result that he made a decided success as a teacher, endearing himself to the whole community by his unselfish and faithful service. Upon entering upon the practice of medicine he continued the same ungrudging and unselfish service to the people and, naturally enough, has built up an extensive practice, having achieved a notable success, both from a professional and financial standpoint. Doctor Porter very modestly takes some measure of pride in the success which has attended his practice in the treatment of the diseases of children and in the practice of obstetrics, in both of which he has enjoyed an unusual degree of success.

On August 23, 1910, Edward A. Porter was united in marriage to Hester M. Alley, a member of an old and prominent family in this county,

daughter of J. L. and Lucy (Ewing) Alley, the latter of whom was the daughter of Joshua Ewing, one of the famous triplets in the family of Patrick Ewing. On other pages of this biographical history there are presented genealogies of the Alley family and the Ewing family, to which the reader is respectfully referred for additional details concerning Mrs. Porter's interesting family connections. To Dr. Edward A. and Hester M. (Alley) Porter have been born two children, Martha Lucile, born on October 14, 1911, and Jonathan Edward, June 10, 1913.

Doctor and Mrs. Porter are members of the Baptist church at Burney and are consistent in all good works of the community to which their lives are so earnestly devoted, being regarded as among the leaders in the better thought of the neighborhood. Doctor Porter is a Democrat and his ardent public spirit is a continual stimulus to his unselfish efforts on behalf of good local government, his intelligent interest in political affairs giving him a prominent place in the councils of the party managers in this county. In January, 1914, Doctor Porter was appointed coroner of Decatur county, and has given to the administration of the affairs of that important office his very best thought, even as he gives his very best thought to all his duties as a physician and as a citizen. As a family physician, Doctor Porter necessarily has been brought into the most intimate relations with the people of the community and in all his relations in life has so comported himself as to merit the confidence and esteem of the whole countryside.

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### HENRY TOWNSEND.

Generally speaking, the man who remains in one place, using the opportunities which are within his grasp and is satisfied with a reasonable measure of progress or profit at the end of each year, makes on the whole the greatest success of a vocation whatever it may be. This is particularly true of farming and it is no matter for wonderment that Henry Townsend, a well-known and well-to-do farmer of Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, has achieved a satisfactory measure of success on the farm. Now fifty-five years old he lives in the neighborhood where he was born, and it is here that all his struggles and his toil have been staged. By saving something from the profits of each year's work he has been able to buy more land from time to time until he now owns three farms—ninety-four acres in the home place, eighty acres across the road and a hundred and twenty acres southwest of his home



—two hundred and ninety-four acres in all. Here he has found a realization of his boyhood ambition, and here he has been able to surround himself with all of the comforts which life in the countryside may afford.

Born on December 27, 1860, Henry Townsend is the son of James C. and Susan (Warren) Townsend, the former of whom was born on December 22, 1826, in Decatur county, Indiana, the son of James and Sarah Townsend. James Townsend was a native of New Jersey and came to Decatur county in 1830 and purchased a tract of a hundred and sixty acres of timber land. Susan Warren was a daughter of James Warren, who entered land on the south side of the road opposite the tract entered by the Townsends. James C. and Susan Townsend became the owners of a tract of land comprising two hundred and eighty acres in all. Mrs. Townsend was born in 1818, and died in October, 1889. Of their four children, Henry, the subject of this sketch, was the youngest. The other children were Mrs. Sarah Bailey, of St. Paul; John, a farmer near St. Paul, and James S., a farmer.

After attending the schools in the neighborhood where he was born, and especially the Murphy school, Henry Townsend lived with his parents after his marriage, and when his mother died he remained on the home farm. When he purchased his first tract of forty acres he bought it with the intention of moving to the farm, but changed his plans and continued to reside on the home place. His land has been acquired by the purchase of forty acres at a time, and he has thus not only grown in wealth and affluence, but he has grown in influence as well, since his success is pointed out as a splendid example of what may be accomplished by diligence and unceasing effort. Not so very long ago Mr. Townsend erected a splendid modern home of ten rooms on his home farm, costing approximately four thousand dollars. With well-kept and attractive outbuildings the farm is equipped for the most successful operations. He no longer, however, is engaged in active farming, but during recent years has been accustomed to rent out his land to others.

On December 13, 1887, when he was twenty-seven years old, Henry Townsend was married to Maggie Garrigan, the daughter of Patrick Garrigan, a native of Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Townsend had only one child, Maudie Cecil, who died at the age of eleven years.

For at least three generations Democracy has been the prevailing politics of the Townsends, Henry Townsend's father and grandfather both having been identified with the Democratic party. Mr. and Mrs. Townsend are members of the United Brethren church, and belong to the Union Chapel church in Adams township. He is a worthy citizen of the township and county where he resides and where he has always lived. Men who know

Henry Townsend admire and respect him for his rugged honesty and his interest in the comforts and happiness of his fellows. He makes no pretension of great achievement, but nevertheless all are ready to say that his life has been well spent in sowing seeds of good. He takes a commendable interest in all worthy public enterprises, believes in good roads, public improvements, and especially in good farming.

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#### FRANK S. ALEXANDER.

Frank S. Alexander, who owns a farm of two hundred and seventy-six acres two miles south of Burney on the Columbus pike, is one of the representative farmers and stock breeders of Decatur county and one of the alert and progressive business men of this community. He has never permitted himself to fall into the rut which has ruined so many otherwise capable men but has studied and experimented in every department of agriculture and has thus been able to obtain the maximum results from his efforts. Not only this, but he has so ordered his career as, at all times, to command the confidence and respect of the people of this county. The time has been when he was a great borrower of money and the substantial credit which he enjoyed at a time when credit was necessary to large-scale operations, is the basis of his present affluence and prosperity. A man interested in public improvements, he has played no small part in the progress and prosperity of the county as a whole.

Frank S. Alexander was born in 1871, in Bartholomew county, near Hartsville, the son of A. J. and Charlotta (Steward) Alexander, the former of whom was a native of Butler county, Ohio, born in 1839, and who moved to Bartholomew county when he was eighteen years old. He owned eighty acres of land near Hartsville but traded this for one hundred and sixty acres where his son, Frank, now resides, to which he moved and where he spent the remainder of his active business life. Charlotta Steward, who was born in Ireland, came with her parents to America when six years old. They settled in Bartholomew county, Indiana, where she was married to A. J. Alexander. By industry, economy and shrewd management, they became prosperous farmers of the county.

Born and reared on a farm, Frank S. Alexander established the foundation for his business success by working for his father on the farm he now owns for one dollar a day. After working this way for two years,

he purchased sixty-acres of land on the banks of Clifty creek and there lived for four years. Upon selling this farm he moved to Tipton county, where he purchased one hundred and five acres of land. The purchase and sale of this land was really the substantial foundation of his greater fortune. After selling seven hundred dollars worth of timber from the farm, he sold it in two years at an advance of fifteen dollars an acre. He came back to Decatur county and purchased the old home farm, where he now lives. On the day that President William McKinley was killed he paid his father one thousand dollars to close the deal for the purchase of the home farm. Since 1901 his rise in the business world has been rapid. Mr. Alexander owns two hundred and seventy-six acres of land and has a modern home worth at least five thousand dollars. He is a heavy stockholder and a director in the Burney State Bank. He handles two carloads of cattle and six carloads of hogs every year as well as four loads of mules. He has a large silo and two barns, one sixty by eighty feet, and one forty by fifty feet. In 1914 he raised eight thousand bushels of Yellow Dent corn on one hundred and thirty-two acres. Mr. Alexander has always farmed on a large scale and to some extent has been a land dealer. In 1909 he purchased eighty acres of land near the home farm and after cultivating it for two years, sold it at a profit of two thousand dollars. In fact, Mr. Alexander has been alert to every possible opportunity for making money, being quick to recognize a bargain. He is a man of courage in business and, while not now a borrower, formerly operated his land on a considerable amount of borrowed capital.

Frank S. Alexander married Elizabeth E. Pumphrey, the daughter of William and Loduska (Jewell) Pumphrey, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky and the son of Andrew Pumphrey, whose family was of English origin and who came to Kentucky in pioneer times. Andrew Pumphrey immigrated to Decatur county in pioneer times and settled in Clay township, west of where Burney is now situated. He was a successful farmer, a Democrat in politics and well respected as a citizen. He had seven children, of whom William, the father of Mrs. Alexander, was the fourth. William grew to manhood on his father's farm and began life for himself after his marriage to Loduska Jewell. They settled on a farm which William Pumphrey owned and to which he added until, at the time of his death, he owned thirteen hundred acres of land, all in Clay township. He was a very successful farmer and business man, a Democrat and a member of the Methodist church. A man of decided convictions and moral courage, he was more than the ordinary type of citizen. Generous in his

impulses, he had a host of friends in this county and township. He died at the age of eighty years. William and Loduska Pumphrey reared a family of ten children, eight of whom are now living, namely: James A., Francis M. and Edward P., all of whom are residents of Decatur county; William P., who is a resident of Shelby county; Doad P. and an unnamed child are deceased; Elizabeth E., who is the wife of Mr. Alexander; Fannie, who is the wife of a Mr. Miner, of Decatur county; May, who is the wife of Clyde Elliott; and Josephine, who married Earl Littell, of Indianapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Alexander have six living children, as follow: Ralph, born on June 25, 1894; Ethel, April 14, 1900; Paul, November 6, 1904; Ruth, June 28, 1909; Dennis, July 12, 1912, and Mazie E., June 6, 1915.

For many years Frank S. Alexander has been prominent in the councils of the Republican party of Decatur county and, in a measure, his services were rewarded by his party when in 1908 he was elected a member of the Decatur county board of commissioners, an office in which he served until 1912. Politics is the one diversion from his personal business which he permits himself to enjoy. One might search the length and breadth of Decatur county and not find a man, who, in the same length of time, has enjoyed a more rapid rise in farming and in business than Frank S. Alexander. He has been successful in life because he has applied himself assiduously to his business and because he is so constituted that he has not feared to take reasonable chances. In an official way he is well known to the people of this county because of his efficient record as a public officer. In a private way he is known as an estimable citizen and a prosperous farmer.

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#### JAMES M. BOSTIC.

The Union soldier during the great war between the states builded wiser than he knew. Through four years of suffering and hardships, through the horrors of prison pens and amid the shadows of death he laid the foundation of the greatest temple ever erected and dedicated to human freedom. The world looked on and called those soldiers sublime, for it was theirs to reach up a mighty arm of power and strike the chains from off the slaves, preserve the country from dissolution and to keep unfurled to the breeze the only flag that has ever made tyrants tremble. One of the noble men, now deceased, who contributed his time and effort to this honorable struggle, was James M. Bostic.



James M. Bostic was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1846, the son of Titus and Sarah (Jones) Bostic, both natives of Dearborn county, who removed to Decatur county in pioneer times, and here lived the balance of their lives.

After being reared to manhood on his father's home farm, James M. Bostic enlisted in 1862, in Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, a regiment which saw very hard service during the Civil War. It was attached to Grant's army of Middle Tennessee, and participated in the battle of Vicksburg, the battle of Fort Donelson and many others. James M. Bostic came through the strenuous struggle without ever receiving a wound, and without having been sick. He was a brave and efficient soldier and was actuated by the highest motives of true patriotism. He possessed a hatred of slavery and its injustice, and was willing, if necessary, to give his life to suppress the institution.

At the close of the war, James M. Bostic came home to Decatur county, and in 1867 was married to Melissa Hancock, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Lemons) Hancock, the latter of whom was a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Lemonds, natives of Lawrence county, Indiana, and of English extraction. They moved to Lawrence county, Indiana, direct from North Carolina, where the first Lemonds family settled on their arrival from England in America. John Hancock was born in North Carolina and moved to Lawrence county about 1840, bringing with him his wife and two small children. After remaining in Lawrence county for some eight years, the family came to Decatur county, and settled near St. Paul, in Adams township. Later they moved to Clay township, and settled near Milford. Here John Hancock lived the remainder of his life. He was a well-known, honest and respected citizen. Of his six children, Mrs. James M. Bostic was the fourth in order of birth. She was born in Lawrence county in 1848. Mr. and Mrs. Bostic began life together in Milford, where Mr. Bostic followed the occupation of a farmer until some twenty-five years ago, when he retired.

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Bostic were the parents of eight children, as follow: George, a resident of Shelby county, Indiana; Fannie and Carrie, residing at home with their mother; Stella, the wife of Charles Mote, of Jackson township, this county; Emmett, living at home; Nannie, the wife of James Thornburg, a resident of Daviess county, Indiana; Isophene, the wife of Roy Herndon, lives at St. Paul, where her husband operates a saw-mill and threshing machine; and Ora Dale, who lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.

James M. Bostic was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, having been affiliated with Pap Thomas Post at Greensburg. For six years

he served as township assessor, and was well known and well liked by the citizens of Decatur county. A Republican in politics, he was stanch and true to the principles of the party of Lincoln, and it is not too much to say that he belonged to that class of citizens of whom Decatur county may well be proud. Mrs. Bostic is a member of the Presbyterian church. Although now sixty-seven years of age, she enjoys good health. She is a woman of noble Christian instincts, and has a large circle of friends in this township.

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#### ANDREW WILLIAMS.

On the Columbus and Greensburg road four and one-half miles southwest of the pleasant village of Burney, in this county, there is situated a comfortable farm house within whose walls good cheer and cordial hospitality ever reign. Here live a delightful old couple who have made their home on that spot since their marriage in 1867 and who are known far and wide throughout that community, being held in the highest regard by all. Andrew Williams was born on that spot, his present home being a part of the original tract entered by his father from the government back in pioneer days. His wife, who was a Woodruff, also was born in this county, member of a prominent pioneer family, and the two have witnessed the development of the wilderness to its present high state of cultivation. Beginning their home life on this spot in a little log cabin, they prospered and presently their present comfortable and commodious home was erected, where they are living in peaceful content, enjoying the confidence and esteem of all who know them. Mr. Williams has displayed enterprise and energy in the operations of his farm and is recognized as one of the most substantial citizens thereabout. He has always been a hard worker and is now enjoying the fitting reward of his life of well-directed toil. Mrs. Williams is one of the gentlest of women, whose benignant ways have endeared her to the entire neighborhood. A woman of exceptional native ability, she has been a helpmeet indeed to her husband and shares with him the ample rewards of their life of earnest endeavor. Mrs. Williams is of the broad-minded type, charitable to all and a good Christian woman. She has the utmost reverence for the memories of the earlier days in that part of the county and delights to talk of those days, her fund of reminiscences making her a very entertaining conversationalist.

Andrew Williams was born on the farm on which he now lives, in

Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, November 16, 1844, a son of Richard and Dorcas (Dunn) Williams, the former of whom was a native of Virginia, born on July 4, 1804, son of Felix Williams, of English extraction, and the latter of whom was a native of this county, a member of one of the earliest settlers in that part of the county.

Richard Williams came from Virginia to this county about the year 1825 and entered a section of land in Clay township. He then returned to Virginia, but presently returned to Decatur county and proved up his claim. He married Dorcas Dunn, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Swinney) Dunn, prominent pioneers of this region, and to this union were born nine children, namely: Mrs. Nancy McClintick, of Clay township; Mrs. Martha Evans, deceased; James, deceased; Felix, living in Hartsville; Andrew, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Mitchell, deceased; Mrs. Louisa Pumphrey, deceased; John, deceased, and Mrs. Minerva Smith, deceased; one died young. Richard Williams became one of the heavy landowners of Decatur county, adding to his original tract until he owned fifteen hundred acres of land. He was a man of strong character and one of the shrewdest farmers in the western part of the county. He was reared a Whig, but upon the dissolution of that party entered the ranks of the Democrats, and remained faithful to the principles of Jefferson and Jackson the rest of his life, his death occurring on November 16, 1882.

Andrew Williams was reared on the home farm in Clay township, receiving such educational advantages as the somewhat limited facilities for schooling offered in those days, and grew up properly trained for a life of farming. On October 30, 1867, he was united in marriage to Eliza Woodruff, daughter of Enos and Susan (Bourne) Woodruff, early residents of Jackson township, this county, the former of whom was a native of Delaware and the latter of whom was a native of Massachusetts, of English and Dutch ancestry, respectively.

Enos Woodruff and his wife came to this county from Ohio at an early day in the settlement of this region, settling in Jackson township, where they prospered, having been numbered among the most substantial and influential residents of that part of the county. Enos Woodruff was born on September 22, 1822, and died in August, 1899; his wife having been born on January 8, 1824, and died on August 4, 1908. They were members of the United Brethren church and were prominent in the good works of their neighborhood. Mr. Woodruff was a Democrat and took an intelligent interest in the political affairs of the county.

To Andrew and Eliza (Woodruff) Williams have been born four chil-

dren, as follow: Mrs. Lena Galbraith, born on December 30, 1868, lives southwest of the village of Burney, in this county; John Wesley, May 16, 1871, lives in Bartholomew county, this state; Elza Edgar, August 3, 1874, lives in Clay township, and Susan Elsie, 1890, married Clyde Thorpe, lives at Milford.

Upon their marriage, in 1867, Andrew Williams and wife settled on a part of the Williams home acres, for some time living in a log cabin thereon, but as their affairs prospered and the demand of the growing family required more room, they built a comfortable residence and are very pleasantly situated. Mr. Williams is a Democrat, following the earnest convictions of his father in his political faith, and takes an earnest interest in political affairs, being much interested in good government. He has a farm of two hundred and sixty-five acres, which is under excellent cultivation, and he has been quite successful in his farming operations. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for the past thirty years.

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### JOHN W. TREMAIN.

It was, indeed, a rough road over which many of the earlier settlers had to travel. The wonder is that they arrived at all and not that they carried with them on their arrival especial honors; but John W. Tremain, the subject of this sketch, not only traveled the road, but, too, arrived with especial honors, for he has succeeded from the financial standpoint, and his fellow neighbors have, again and again, elected him to some office of service as a mark of honor, the last of which he still holds, the office of county commissioner of the third district of Decatur county.

John W. Tremain was born on June 11, 1851, in Johnson county, Indiana. He was the son of George W. Tremain, who was a native of Decatur county, and who was born in 1830. George W. Tremain was a son of Reuben and Elizabeth (Hardy) Tremain. Reuben Tremain was a native of New York and immigrated to Decatur county in 1823, where he, with two brothers, Homer and Simeon, entered a tract of one hundred sixty acres of land in what is known as the Robbins neighborhood three miles southeast of Greensburg. After entering this land, these brothers divided it, each building a log cabin, cleared, improved and cultivated the land. Homer and Simeon died here on this land. Reuben Tremain immigrated to Johnson county, where, in 1848, his son, George W. Tremain, married Phoebe Nay,



a native of Kentucky and a daughter of Samuel Nay. Samuel Nay settled in Johnson county in 1832, after traveling afoot, with six companions, from Madison, Indiana. After their arrival in Johnson county they built a house with axes and saws which they had carried with them, and here Samuel Nay lived and died. Phoebe Nay was born in 1828 and died in 1901.

George W. Tremain went back to Decatur county in 1868 and bought a farm where he lived until his death, in 1903. To George W. and Phoebe (Nay) Tremain were born seven children, namely: John W., the subject of this sketch; Samuel J., deceased; Milton R., of Columbus, Indiana; George B., of Celina, Kansas; Caroline, deceased; Mary married a Mr. Munns, of Oxford, Ohio, and Martha married Louis Youman, of Bartholomew county.

John W. Tremain, like many of the earlier settlers, secured most of his education in the "School of Life Experiences." He had only three months' schooling after he was thirteen years old. He lived with his parents until his marriage, at the age of nineteen. He was married on August 4, 1870, to Eliza Jane Jones, the daughter of Horace Jones, one of the early settlers of Jackson township. In about 1880 John W. Tremain settled in Jackson township and bought a tract of eighty acres, and here they lived until Mrs. Tremain's death, at the age of fifty, in 1900. To this union were born five children, three of whom are now living: George L., of Greensburg, county attorney; Dr. Milton A., a practicing physician of Adams, who is the father of one child, Margaret, eight years old, and Emma, the wife of Forrest Stewart, a former teacher of near Adams and who attended the University of Chicago, and will teach at Hiram, Ohio, at a school of the Christian church of Ohio.

After the death of Mrs. Tremain, Mr. Tremain lived on the farm until in 1904 he sold it and bought an eighty-acre tract south of Sardinia, on which he lives at the present time. This is a highly-improved piece of land with modern buildings and a fine brick residence.

On March 30, 1905, John W. Tremain was united in marriage to Nancy (Webb) LaForge, who was the widow of John LaForge, an early settler and a native of Decatur county. Nancy Webb was born in Jackson township in 1856 and was the daughter of Jonathan and Nancy Dilman Webb, now deceased and natives of Indiana and Ohio, respectively, who settled in the woods in Jackson township, in Decatur county, when they were first married. They were the parents of thirteen children, the following having attained maturity: Phoebe Ann, Julia Ann, Joseph Jemima, Monroe and America, now deceased, and the following are still living: John, of Columbus; Jane, married Mr. Misner, of Franklin; Smiley, of Jennings county; Mollie, of

Jennings county; Anna Maria, who is the wife of Nathan Watson, of near Burney, and Emma, who is the wife of D. H. Pike, of Jackson township.

Nancy Webb LaForge was the mother of one child by her first husband, Vinnie, who married Harry Tarkington, of Bartholomew county.

In politics, John W. Tremain has always been an active and ardent Democrat. He has often been elected to offices of trust, all of which he has filled with credit and honor. For ten years he held the office of justice of the peace, he was a school director for a time, and for five years he was trustee of Jackson township, and at the present time he holds the office of county commissioner from his district. He is a stanch and active member of the Christian church.

It is, indeed, a mark of worth and a creditable example to have "hewn through the rocks of adversity" of such a rough road and to have traveled over that road, with little but self-education, with sturdy, resolute step to a place of honor and trust in the gift of his neighbors, and such is the accomplishments of John W. Tremain.

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#### WILLIAM H. DENISTON.

When one thinks of Scotland and its limited area of land with its dense population, in comparison to the vast area of the United States with its scattering population of one hundred years ago, one does not wonder that when John Deniston, in his youth, came with his parents to this country they had to "look around" before they could decide just where they wanted to go; but after a while they decided to go to the far West, which, at that time, was Indiana, and here on December 30, 1836, William H. Deniston was born.

In Scotland almost every man has some industrial training, and so we find John Deniston, instead of taking up farming for a livelihood, going into the business of a tanner and shoemaker, while in contrast to such a business life his son, William H. Deniston, the subject of this sketch, takes as his vocation the life of a farmer.

John Deniston was born in Scotland in 1795 and came to this country with his parents when a child. Later in life he settled in Franklin county, Indiana, where for a time he engaged in the business of tanning leather and making shoes, removing to Butler county, Ohio, where he operated a tannery and made boots and shoes on a large scale until his death there in 1862. John Deniston married Sarah Lines, who was born in 1797 and who died in

1853. They had eight children, as follow: George died in California; Martha, died in Mt. Carmel, Indiana; David, died in Kokomo, Indiana; Sarah Jane, died in infancy; James, died in White county, Illinois; Helen died in Iowa; Frank, died on a farm near Sardinia, and William H., the subject of this sketch.

William H. Deniston came, with his brother Frank, to Sardinia, March 14, 1867 and bought a tract of two hundred and nine acres of land which they operated in partnership until 1879, at which time William H. sold his interest and purchased a sixty-eight acre tract of his own. This venture proved a successful one and it was not long until he increased his holdings by the purchase of a two hundred and forty acre tract near Sardinia, and to this he has added a seventy-five-acre tract on which his son now lives. He also owns sixty acres which his son William J. operates.

Mr. Deniston has not been willing to rest at the simple ownership of this fine body of land but has increased its value and usefulness by added improvements, until, today, he has each farm well equipped with residences, barns and granaries, having three good residence buildings and four good barns.

William H. Deniston was married on May 21, 1862 to Celeste Doty, of Butler county, whose mother was a Sheilds and whose father was John Doty. Mrs. Deniston was born in 1843 and was the mother of three children, as follow: William J., lives on one of his father's farms near Sardinia and has two daughters, Cecil Bonnie and Dale at home; Annie Maude married William Hubbard, and is the mother of one son, Lowell C.; Charles E. is married and lives on one of his father's farms, and has one son, Noble Graham.

After the death of his first wife, which occurred on October 8, 1884, William H. Deniston lived with his daughter on one of his farms. The daughter was married in 1892 and Mr. Deniston continued to make his home with her until on June 7, 1911, he was married to Sarah Elizabeth (George) Powell, widow of Charles Powell, of Indianapolis, when he left the farm and moved into Sardinia where he now lives.

Sarah Elizabeth George was the daughter of Andrew George, who left Butler county, Ohio, to settle in Henry county, Indiana.

William H. Deniston has long been one of the active "wheel horses" of the Democratic party in Decatur county. In his earlier days he filled several minor township offices with honor. Mr. Deniston is an active member of the Universalist church.

The forefathers of some of our most worthy and substantial citizens came to this country from a foreign shore, and among these might be men-

tioned William H. Deniston, whose father, John Deniston, was brought to this country by his parents from Scotland. Surely, William H. Deniston has proven a worthy and creditable accession to our citizenship.

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### EDGAR EDDELMAN.

The name heading this sketch is that of a gentleman whose ancestors were of good old pioneer stock, and who could, if alive today, tell of many thrilling incidents with the Indians, and the hardships that belonged to the life in the wilderness. These stories have the same fascination for the listener that the war stories of today have, provided one is not called upon to take an active part in them. It is not difficult to be brave in time of peace, and the early parents who faced the murderous Indians, with neighbors and all assistance beyond call, were made of sterner stuff than the man who faces a sixteen-inch war-gun today.

Edgar Eddelman, of Jackson township, was born on October 17, 1875, on a farm one mile north of where he now resides. He is the son of Amos Henry and Abigail (Shinault) Eddelman. His home of one hundred and forty-three acres in Jackson township is one of the most prosperous in the county, in addition to which, he owns seventy-three acres one mile north, making, in all, two hundred and sixteen acres, with two sets of buildings. Mr. Eddelman does a general farming business, and raises from fifty to seventy-five hogs annually. His political views are in harmony with the Democratic party.

Amos Henry Eddelman was born in 1850 and died in 1905, on the farm where Edgar now lives. He was a son of William H. and Rachel (Wheldon) Eddelman, who gave him a farm one mile north. In politics he was a Democrat. He was a member of the Baptist church. Abigail Shinault, who married Amos Henry Eddelman, was born in 1849, in Jennings county, and is a daughter of George Shinault, born of German immigrant parents.

The paternal grandfather was William H. Eddelman, a native of Jefferson county, Indiana, and a son of Daniel Eddelman. His wife was Rachel Wheldon, also a native of Jefferson county. He was twice married, had two children by the first wife and eleven by the second.

When Kentucky was a wilderness, Daniel Eddelman, great-grandfather of Edgar Eddelman, with his mother and brother, was sheltered in a strong cabin at Bryant's Station, and while here they were attacked by



Indians and Daniel was taken by them to near Lafayette, where he was kept until he was twelve years old, when he was returned to Kentucky and claimed by his mother. It is thought that Daniel's brother, James, was killed or burned to death by the Indians. Daniel died in Jackson county, Indiana, when ninety-eight years of age. He was a hunter and trapper, and loved hunting better than farming. He learned the Indian method of counting, which goes as follows, by using fingers: "Nequita, nesway, nethèny, narrowway, nollony, cutatha, nesothy, sathaky, sockaty and metathy," and then counting up to one hundred or more by doubling the hands, etc. The Eddelmans came to Decatur county in the early twenties, and settled in Jackson township. A log cabin was their home until it was replaced by a new house.

Edgar Eddelman was united in marriage on December 22, 1907, with Christina Margaret Geiling, who was born on October 25, 1877, in Jennings county, Indiana, a daughter of George Geiling. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Eddelman are the parents of four children, namely: Alice Blanche, born on January 27, 1909; Daniel Amos, July 1, 1910; George Albert, February 12, 1912; Thomas Edgar, December 9, 1913.

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### JOHN E. ROBBINS.

When any man serves himself in a fair and honorable manner he serves his community, but there are certain types of citizens who, in addition to serving themselves well, perform an especial service to their community. At the present moment there is a movement being inaugurated by the government to increase the efficiency of the farmer, not only in the improvement of soil and soil products, but in scientific improvement of animal breeding and animal industry. It is a notable fact that this interest has been largely initiated through the pioneer efforts of individual stock raisers and breeders, who, while their prime object might have been individual profit, nevertheless have rendered a notable service, not alone to themselves and to their immediate community, but to the country as a whole. Indiana has, by no means, stood in the background in this movement, and among the Indiana breeders there have been few of more prominence than John E. Robbins, of Decatur county.

John E. Robbins was born in Sand Creek township, Decatur county, on October 6, 1861, on the farm on which he still resides. This farm, consisting of a three-hundred-fifteen-acre tract of improved land, has descended

to its present owner from his grandfather, William Robbins, who settled on this land in 1823, and who, at that time, built a log cabin on what is now the site of the palatial farm residence of John E. Robbins.

John E. Robbins is the son of James G. Robbins, who was born on June 10, 1829, in a log cabin which stood where John E. Robbins now lives. For further history of James G. Robbins see history of Robbins family under J. B. Kitchin sketch, elsewhere in this volume. The mother of John Robbins was Elmira H. Stout, who was the daughter of Joab Stout, and who was born in September, 1832. Her lineage can be traced to the early history of America.

Richard Stout landed at New Amsterdam in 1618. His wife, progeny of Von Princess, with her first husband was shipwrecked off Sandy Hook and captured by Indians, the children and husband were killed and the wife was held, but later ransomed, afterwards marrying Richard Stout. They had six children: Jonathan, John, Richard, James Peter, Daniel Benjamin, Mary Sarah and Alice. Jonathan Stout was the founder of Hopewell, New Jersey, and his son, Joab Stout, was the father of Joab Stout, who was the father of Elmira H. (Stout) Robbins.

Joab Stout served throughout the Revolutionary War and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. He married Rhoda Howell at close of the war and settled at Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania, in 1778. Later, with a party of emigrants, he made what was then, on account of Indian hostilities, a very dangerous trip down the Ohio river and landed near the present site of Louisville, Kentucky. Later he went to Lexington and then to Bracken county on the Licking river, where he remained for a number of years, and then moved to near Cincinnati, where he lived for a short time, and in 1812 he moved to Franklin county, Indiana, where he died on February 28, 1883.

To Joab and Rhoda Stout were born the following children: Jonathan, who married Nancy Thompson in Kentucky; Rachel, who married William Cummins; Mary, who was the wife of Andrew Shirk; Elizabeth, who was the wife of Samuel Shirk; Abner, who married Malinda Tyner; Joab, who married Amanda Rariden, and after her death Rebecca Wynkoop; David, who married Rhoda Wiles; Margaret, who died in infancy; Rebecca, who was the wife of Samuel Goudie; Ira, who married Eliza McNutt; Sarah, who was the wife of Paul Holliday; Aaron, who married a Mrs. McKinney, and Anna, who was the wife of William Waldroff.

Joab Stout, the sixth child of this large family, was born on January 15, 1802, in Bracken county, Kentucky, and died at Letts Center, Indiana, on

November 11, 1877. He, like his own father, was the father of a large family. He was twice married and his first wife was the mother of the following children: Milton S., who died on June 8, 1830; Jonathan R., who died in September, 1835; Rhoda E.; Elmira H., who was the mother of the subject of this sketch, and Mary E., who died on September 24, 1876. The following children were born under his second marriage: Joab H., deceased; Sarah A., who died on January 10, 1872; John W., who lives in Greensburg; Isaac N., who died on April 8, 1871; Rachel J., deceased; Mrs. Helen Eubank, who lives in Greensburg; Mrs. Frances R. Templeton, who lives in Greensburg and who is now a widow; Clara E., who died on January 4, 1863.

John E. Robbins was educated in the common schools and the high school of Greensburg. His land possessions came chiefly as his share from his father's estate. He has improved this land until today it is one of the most up-to-date farms in Indiana. Since 1882 Mr. Robbins, with his father and brother as partners, has been doing extensive breeding of improved Shorthorn cattle, and at the present time he has a herd of over ninety head of the best examples of this breed to be found in America. The firm has recently imported a number of very fine cattle from Scotland. Some of these are of almost priceless value because of their breeding.

The partnership was established, and is still carried on under the firm name of J. G. Robbins & Sons, breeders. This firm has shown in competition with state and national breeders every year except one (1898) at national, state and county shows, and has never failed to carry off their proportion of the prizes offered. The reason of their failure to show in 1898 was because they sold their show herd for that year, but the buyers of the herd exhibited it at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, where it won every premium offered in its class. At the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 John E. Robins & Sons, breeders, won the beef-herd championship with five head of cattle and won the diploma for breeding the most winners in the Shorthorn class at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1903. This firm has won numerous championships at International Stock Shows at Chicago, and the American Royal Shows at Kansas City. They won all prizes offered in two shows at Madison Square Garden, New York City, and they won numerous prizes at the Lewis and Clark Exposition at Portland, Oregon. In addition to these they have won prizes at the following state fairs: Minnesota, Montana, Kentucky, Virginia and at Toronto, Canada.

John E. Robbins has come to be known as one of the best expert judges of cattle in this country, and among some of the organizations which have sought his service in this capacity are the New York state fair, the Ohio state

fair, the Wisconsin state fair, the Minnesota state fair, the Kentucky state fair, and the Memphis tri-state fair. He was expert judge at seven different international shows in Chicago, at Portland, Oregon, and Ft. Worth, Texas, besides at a great number of county fairs and local shows. Will S. Robbins, the brother in the firm, has, also, in many states, served as an expert judge.

While John E. Robbins has been much engrossed in productive and industrial activities he has not failed to know and fill his obligations as a citizen, politically, socially and religiously. He always has been a staunch Republican in politics. His grandfather was a Whig. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins are members of the Liberty Baptist church, of which Reverend Joab Stout was pastor for many years. There is an association of the Stout family and for many years this association has been holding annual reunions. Miss Geneva Robbins is secretary of this association and for the last three years these meetings have been held at the Liberty Baptist church and were attended by scores of the descendants of the Robbins family.

Too much praise cannot be given earlier settlers, who have through their individual efforts sought scientifically to increase and improve live stock production. Oftentimes this has seemed almost a hopeless and thankless task. When one has the full understanding of just what such an undertaking means and fights on to accomplish his purpose, it matters little whether he succeeds from a financial standpoint or not, he has been a benefactor to humanity, and such service, when it brings both the compensation to the individual and the benefits to the community, is indeed a double blessing.

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#### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DENHAM.

It is extraordinary in this country to find a man who is almost a septuagenarian capable of performing any considerable amount of work. It is even more unusual to find a man at this advanced age who is capable of doing manual work, yet Benjamin Franklin Denham, a farmer and stockman of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, was found plowing in the field when sought for the facts of his personal life. It is a strong testimonial to the rugged stock from which he is sprung that he is still able to engage in exacting toil at this age. His career has been a most active one and his body is still strong and his mind alert. Mr. Denham is a noble-minded, public-spirited citizen of this great county.

Benjamin Franklin Denham was born on January 24, 1846, in Cler-



mont county, Ohio, the son of Benjamin, Sr., and Mary Ann (Patchell) Denham, the former of whom was born in 1806 and died in 1880, and the latter died in 1858. The father, who came from Scotch-Irish stock, was a native of New York and immigrated to Ohio. He was a Baptist preacher, miller and millwright. He preached, however, for the love of the work and operated a mill as his real business in life. Coming to Decatur county in 1848, he erected the Harwood mill on Sand creek and for two years, in conjunction with his brother, Daniel, operated this mill. They taught the owner of the mill how to run it. In 1850 Benjamin Denham, Sr., built a mill two miles north on Sand creek, which was operated by water and there he was engaged in sawing lumber and grinding grain for several years. Subsequently, he became the sole owner of the mill and operated it for twenty-five years. In the meantime, he preached in the local churches of the county. Finally he traded the mill and thirty-three and one-third acres of land for one hundred and sixty acres of land in Kansas, but later traded this land. For some time he was engaged in preaching at Alert and then operated a mill at Forest Hill for two years, when he returned to Sand Creek township and operated the Harwood mill, finally buying it and operating it until his death.

Benjamin and Mary Ann (Patchell) Denham were the parents of eight children, the five eldest of whom, Elizabeth, Sarah, Maria, Jemima and Delilah, are deceased. The others are as follow: James B. lives in Missouri; Benjamin Franklin is the subject of this sketch, and John Edward lives in Missouri. After the death of his first wife, the father married a Mrs. (Deweese) Miller, who bore him three children, two of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Hattie Allen, of Greensburg, is the only living child of this marriage.

Educational opportunities were somewhat limited during the boyhood and youth of Benjamin F. Denham and he had comparatively little schooling. For some time he attended the Sharp's school near Letts, Pinhook and the Rodney school in Sand Creek township. In the meantime, he partially learned the miller's trade and helped to conduct the saw-mill.

Leaving the mill near Adams in 1863, he enlisted in Company H, Thirty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served a period of twenty-three months in the Union army. He was recruited for the Thirty-seventh but was transferred to the Eighty-eighth and then to the Thirty-eighth Regiment, which was a consolidation of the Thirty-seventh and Eighty-eighth. Among the severe engagements in which he was engaged during the Civil War, were the battles of Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Kenesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, Pumpkin Vine, Big Shanty, Resaca,

and Marietta. He was also engaged in the Atlanta campaign and was in the great battle fought twenty-five miles south of Atlanta just before the surrender of the Confederates at Atlanta. He was in the march with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea and participated in the battle fought five miles from Savannah. He was also in the battles of Columbia, South Carolina; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Jonesboro, North Carolina. From Jonesboro he was sent to Richmond, Virginia, after Lee's surrender and, after having participated in the Grand Review at Washington, was sent to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and from there to Louisville, Kentucky, from which place he expected to go to Texas. He was mustered out at Louisville, paid off and discharged at Indianapolis. Being very sick, he rested at home for six weeks and then began working as a farm hand near Greensburg.

For some time Mr. Denham worked for Reverend Tisdale and Mr. Gilman. Later he worked as a hay baler for Attorney Platt Wicks. Having learned the blacksmith's trade, he worked at this trade at Old Gaynorsville for two years. During the twenty-two years succeeding this, he operated a shop at Newburg and, by saving his money, was able to purchase eighty acres of land, a part of the farm he now owns. He and his good wife saved every cent that it was possible to save and were finally able to buy one hundred acres of land adjoining the original eighty. Eight years later they were able to buy one hundred and twenty acres more. They now have three sets of buildings on this land. Mr. Denham erected a large barn in 1909 to replace one which burned.

On November 30, 1870, Benjamin Franklin Denham was married to Mary E. Petree, who was born near Sardinia on August 31, 1845, the daughter of David and Jane (Landphair) Petree, the former of whom was a native of Franklin county, Indiana, and the latter a native of Butler county, Ohio. David Petree was the son of Adam Petree, an early pioneer of Jackson township, who was probably born in Franklin county. David Petree died in 1855. Jane (Landphair) Petree died at her home in 1912. Mrs. Denham, before her marriage, was a milliner at Forest Hill. For ten years Mrs. Denham operated the store at Newburg, assisting her husband in every way possible. Much credit for their joint success is due to her able assistance. Mrs. Denham's parents had gone to housekeeping on the farm, which came to be known as the old homestead and which is now a part of the Denham farm, in a house which is still standing.

Of the six children born to Benjamin F. and Mary E. Denham, Frank, the eldest, who was born on May 9, 1872, is deceased. He died in 1903. The other five children, all of whom are living, are as follow: Charles, born

in 1874, who is farming the home place, married Elizabeth Eddleman and has two children, Margaret and Robert; Fred H., 1876, who lives in North Dakota, married Fannie Talkington and has two children, Eveline and Bernice; Enrie, 1878, who is the wife of Clave Bennis and has two children, twins, Edna May and Mary June; Dora and Tracy O., both of whom are at home.

Mr. Denham was a Republican until the formation of the Progressive party in 1912, when he identified himself with this party. He voted for the first candidate for president which the Republican party elected, Abraham Lincoln. For fifteen years Mr. Denham served as a school trustee in Forest Hill or Newburg. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and has been an elder at Sardinia for the past ten years.

As a veteran of the Civil War, as a successful farmer and stockman, Benjamin F. Denham can look back upon his career with consummate satisfaction. The owner of three hundred acres of good land in Jackson township, he has lived on the farm since 1890. His success as a farmer is due principally to his extensive interest in live stock. Ordinarily, he sells one hundred head of hogs every year and a carload of cattle. Mr. Denham found the road to success and found the road unaided and alone except for the help which he received from his good wife. Today he is an honored and esteemed citizen of Jackson township, a man who enjoys the confidence of his fellows.

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#### ALEXANDER BENTLEY.

The casual traveler in Jackson township, this county, is attracted to the fine appearance of "Maple Grove Farm," one of the best kept and most attractive places in that part of Decatur county. Alexander Bentley, the owner of "Maple Grove Farm" and one of the most progressive and prosperous farmers in his section, is the first man in that township to inscribe upon his mail box the name of his farm; his example in that respect having proved so worthy of emulation that now it is a rarity to find a mail box that is not so adorned. Mr. Bentley has a beautiful farm to which he gives the most devoted care. The fact that this has been the place of his residence for sixty-seven years, ever since he was two years of age, and that, with this exception he has spent his whole life thus far upon the home acres gives to his ownership a sentimental interest which incites him constantly to greater endeavors to make of the farm an ideal place of its kind. He has a fine

home, his house being of good size, and his barns and outbuildings, all of which are painted white to match the house, are kept in a fine state of repair. This cluster of white buildings sitting amidst a beautiful grove of maple trees, from which latter the farm takes its name, presents an exceedingly attractive appearance and speaks loudly for the good taste and careful management of Mr. Bentley and his family.

Alexander Bentley was born in Butler county, Ohio, on March 17, 1844, the son of William and Sarah M. (Howe) Bentley, the former of whom was a native of New York state and the latter of whom was a native of Butler county, Ohio. William Bentley was born on March 22, 1795, and upon reaching manhood's estate left New York and immigrated to Ohio, locating in Butler county where he married Sarah M. Howe, who was born in that county on June 8, 1804, the daughter of William and Sarah Howe, the latter of whom lived to be ninety-seven years of age, her death occurring at College Corners, Ohio.

William Bentley and his family moved from Ohio to this county in February, 1847, settling in Jackson township and locating on a tract of land in the deep timber, on what is now known as the Tyner farm, where James Pavey lives. He built a house of hewed logs on that part of the farm which is now occupied by his son and there he spent the rest of his days, his death occurring on May 18, 1853. His widow long survived him, her death not occurring until April 22, 1881. William Bentley and his wife were excellent citizens and their influence was very helpful in the early days of Jackson township. They were among the founders of the old Dry Fork Baptist church and helped to build that church. Mr. Bentley was an ardent Whig and took an active part in the political affairs of the county.

To William and Sarah M. (Howe) Bentley were born eleven children, namely: Adolphus G. (deceased), born on March 10, 1822; Ebenezer H. (deceased), October 16, 1824; Alvin (deceased), November 18, 1826, was a veteran of the Union army in the Civil War and died in Illinois; Hazel, January 19, 1828, died at the age of two years; Gideon H., May 4, 1830, died at Adams, this county, on February 8, 1915; Calvin H., May 16, 1832, a veteran of the Civil War, went to Putnam county, Missouri, thence to the state of Washington, where he died; Mrs. Louisa H. Brunton, January 4, 1835, lives in Delaware county, this state; Mrs. Sarah H. Lynch (deceased), February 1, 1837, the mother of Mrs. Louisa M. Cory; Mrs. Anna T. Moore (deceased), December 2, 1838; Alexander, the immediate subject of this sketch, and Eleatha H. (deceased), July 4, 1846.

Alexander Bentley has lived on the home place since the days of his



infancy. Upon the death of his father he bought out the interest of the other heirs in the original eighty acres and cared for his mother until her death. Later he bought eighty acres on the southwest, which he sold some years ago, and in the fall of 1914 bought an adjoining tract of one hundred and two acres, upon which some improvements had been made. In 1875, Mr. Bentley erected the handsome residence which he is now occupying, which he since has remodeled from time to time until he now has one of the best and most modern farm houses in the county, in which he is passing the evening of his life in peace and calm content.

On October 1, 1872, Alexander Bentley was united in marriage to Mary Miles, who was born in Franklin county, this state, June 3, 1848, the daughter of Joseph and Eliza Ann (Barrickman) Miles. Joseph Miles, born in 1809, died in 1884, was a native of Virginia who moved with his parents from that state to Ohio, in 1818; upon the death of his father he moved, with his widowed mother, to Franklin county, this state, where the remainder of his life was spent. Eliza Ann Barrickman, who was born in the Templeton creek neighborhood, in Franklin county, May 16, 1813, and died near Springfield, in the same county, December 15, 1893. She was a daughter of Jacob and Jane Barrickman, who immigrated to Indiana Territory in 1807, locating on what is now known as the Peck farm in Franklin county, where they lived until 1810, in which year they moved to the Templeton creek neighborhood, where they became substantial farmers, influential in the early affairs of that community. They were the parents of four sons and seven daughters. An aunt of Mrs. Bentley, Keturah Barrickman, was the daughter-in-law of Robert Templeton, who, on October 16, 1804, entered the northwest quarter of section 28 in Brookville township, Franklin county, this state. His son, James, married Keturah Barrickman. The children of Joseph and Eliza Ann (Barrickman) Miles were: William, who died in November, 1893; John, a prominent farmer of Franklin county; Mrs. Jennie Barbour, who lives at Letts, this county; Ann, deceased; Mary, who married Mr. Bentley; Hattie and Hettie (twins), deceased; Mrs. Kate Clarkson, of Tippecanoe county, this state; James, who lives at Liberty, Indiana, and Mrs. Margaret Lynch (deceased), who lived in Union county, this state.

To Alexander and Mary (Miles) Bentley four children have been born, namely: Estella, born on September 7, 1873, married John Sanders, of Jackson township, this county, and has two children, Noble and Mary; James Clifford, June 11, 1876, lives on the home place with his parents; an infant, April 9, 1879, died on June 16, 1879; Joseph Earl, February 13, 1885, a

farmer living near Letts Corner, married Nellie, daughter of George Boicourt, and has one child, Elvin.

Mr. and Mrs. Bentley are members of the Union Presbyterian church in Jackson township and their children were reared in the faith of that church. Mr. Bentley is a Republican and always has given an intelligent attention to political affairs in this county, though never having been included in the office-seeking class. He and his wife are deeply interested in the good works of the community of which they so long have been an influential part and they enjoy the unqualified confidence and esteem of their neighbors, being held in the very highest regard by all who know them. Their pleasant home is the center of much genial hospitality and they are very popular in that part of the county.

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#### SAMUEL DAVID FULTON.

The struggle which some of the earlier settlers had to exert for existence was such a hard battle that the wonder seems not that so many of these received but a meager education but that they received any at all. Difficulties thrown in the path of Samuel David Fulton appear almost insurmountable, because, in addition to the natural struggle, he was the only son and youngest child in a family of seven, who were left fatherless in the time of need. In the case of Samuel David Fulton the question is brought up as to whether these difficulties and the determination to rise above them did not prove a blessing rather than a hindrance, for the history of his life shows that he became a well-rounded, well-balanced man and a worthy, useful and exemplary citizen.

Samuel David Fulton was born on July 26, 1848, in Jackson township, Decatur county, on the farm on which he now resides. He was the son of William Fulton, who was born in Kentucky in 1807 and died in Decatur county in 1853, and of Susanna Ratcliffe, the daughter of Samuel Ratcliffe. Susanna Ratcliffe was also a native of Kentucky and was born in 1809 and died in 1881.

William Fulton was married in Kentucky and came with his father, David Fulton, to Decatur county in about 1835 and entered a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, a part of which tract Samuel David Fulton now owns. After a year's residence in Greensburg, William Fulton cleared a strip of this land, built a home and took up his residence there. He increased his holdings until, at one time, he owned three hundred and twenty acres.

The same year of his death, in 1853, his residence burned, and was afterward rebuilt by his widow. This house is the present home of Samuel David Fulton, but has been remodeled by him, since his mother's death, into a beautiful modern farm residence. It is one of the finest farm residences to be found in Decatur county. It is set far back from the main road, is reached by a beautiful driveway, and is surrounded by modern farm buildings, a large catalpa grove and a fine, up-to-date orchard.

William and Susanna (Ratcliffe) Fulton were the parents of seven children, six daughters and one son, as follow: Kittie Ann, deceased, married Joseph Keislang; Eliza Jane, aged eighty, the wife of Samuel McCullough, of Westport; Mrs. Paulina Morrow, deceased; Mrs. Martha Law, of Illinois, deceased; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Shirk, deceased; America, deceased, and Samuel David, the subject of this sketch.

Samuel David Fulton deserves especial credit for the success he has made through seemingly insurmountable difficulties. His father died when he was but five years of age, and when he was a mere lad he took hold of the farm work and helped his mother in her struggle. Today Samuel David Fulton is a man far above the average in intelligence, although he had only a district school education. He is a great reader, and to this fact and his life struggles he owes his present education. He bought out the interest of other heirs in the home place, and with what his wife inherited and what he acquired through subsequent purchase he is now in possession of about two hundred and eighty acres, which lies in two tracts.

He is a breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs and raises about two hundred of these annually. He is also a buyer and feeder of both cattle and hogs.

Samuel David Fulton was married on September 25, 1883, to Mary A. Biddinger, who was born in Jackson township in 1861, the daughter of Dr. Solomon Wesley Biddinger and Eliza (Scott) Biddinger. Doctor Biddinger was born near Rising Sun, Indiana, and lived for many years in Decatur county. He practiced medicine for over sixty years, and is at the present time living in Bartholomew county.

To Samuel David and Mary Ann (Biddinger) Fulton were born the following children: Wesley, a teacher at Alert and a graduate of Valparaiso University; Ratcliffe, farming at home after being graduated at Valparaiso University and studying two years in the Indiana State University; Ray, a graduate of Valparaiso University and at present a student in the Indiana State University; Sherman, in the district schools, and William Ira and Mabel who died in infancy.

Samuel David Fulton has fully demonstrated his belief in the neces-

sity of higher education by what he has done for his own children along that line. He knew how much he wanted an education and how hard he had to struggle to secure this and so has determined that it shall be easier for his children. Mr. Fulton has always been affiliated with the Republican party and has filled minor township offices. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is always a willing worker in the ranks of that denomination.

Mr. Fulton has reared his family with highest dignity and devotion, and has attained to a position of influence and worth in his community by hard and persistent effort throughout life.

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#### MARION M. ELLIOTT.

The recent development in agriculture which has sought to increase the productivity of agricultural land, especially corn land, has done very much for the farmers of this state. As an individual state Indiana ranks high not only in the acreage sown but in the average production of corn per acre. Nevertheless, we are still far behind other cereal producing countries in yield per acre, and the fact that a few farmers have in scattered sections of the state been able almost to double their production of corn is sufficient proof of what may be accomplished in this direction.

Marion M. Elliott, a well-known farmer of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, was one of the first citizens of this section to take an interest in increased productivity of land planted to corn, and his results have been especially gratifying. Two or three principal factors enter into Mr. Elliott's success as a corn grower, and these factors are common to the similar success of other men. In the first place, soil must be reasonably fertile naturally, or made so by the use of decayed vegetable matter or commercial fertilizers. In the next place, the land must be well drained, and therefore well ventilated. In the third place, the soil must be kept carefully prepared, and in the last place the seed must be carefully selected. Of course, there are many elements which enter into the cultivation of the crop once it is planted. Of all these factors, perhaps the quality of the seed is the most important. In any event, Mr. Elliott has mastered the modern processes of increased corn production, and has won for himself in this connection an enviable reputation as a farmer in Decatur county.

Marion M. Elliott, who owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in



Jackson township, where he has lived for nearly twenty years, was born on February 9, 1868, in Jackson township, the son of Daniel Webster and Cordelia (Bake) Elliott, the former of whom was born in Jennings county on April 3, 1841, and who died on May 4, 1897, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Eli and Catherine (Risley) Bake. Daniel Webster Elliott was the son of David and Lucinda (Spears) Elliott, who came to Decatur county when he was a mere lad. He was married to Cordelia Bake on May 29, 1864, at Sardinia. Mrs. Elliott's father, Eli Bake, was born in Union county, Indiana, June 23, 1813, and died, January 9, 1899. Eli Bake married Catherine Risley on December 24, 1834. They had twelve children, three of whom died in infancy. Catherine (Risley) Bake was born on October 6, 1817, in New Jersey, and died on March 7, 1904.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Webster Elliott were the parents of seven children, of whom Marion M. was the second born. The others were as follow: Minerva Alice, born on September 27, 1865; Cora May, November 18, 1870; Rozenia, July 31, 1873; Harry Clinton, March 19, 1886; Lucinda Isophene, and Eveline, at home with her parents.

Educated in the Big Horn school of Jackson township, Marion M. Elliott began farming for himself in 1893, when he rented land of Isaac Shira for three years. In 1896 he moved to his present farm, and three years later purchased the farm at thirty-seven and one-half dollars an acre. The farm is now worth more than a hundred dollars an acre. In the meantime he has built a barn, forty-eight by sixty feet, erected a garage and granary, and remodeled his house. The color scheme of the buildings is white, and they present an attractive appearance to the passerby. He is an extensive breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs, and keeps registered pure-bred stock. Ordinarily, Mr. Elliott raises about a hundred and fifty head of hogs every year.

On December 26, 1893, Marion M. Elliott was married to Grace Moore, the daughter of D. J. and Amanda Moore, early residents of Jackson township, natives of Decatur county, and whose parents were of German ancestry. Grace Moore was born in December, 1871, in Jackson township.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion M. Elliott have one son, Lester, who is now nineteen years old. He was born on January 16, 1896, and was graduated from the Westport high school with the class of 1915. In 1908, when Lester was only twelve years old, he received a prize for the best ten ears of corn grown by the boys of Decatur county, in the corn show at Greensburg, Indiana. At this time he raised the Gold Standard variety. In 1913 Mr. Elliott produced eighty bushels of corn to the acre on his farm, and is now

competing in the Decatur county contest in the class which has undertaken to grow one hundred bushels to the acre.

Marion M. Elliott is a progressive, enterprising and broad-minded citizen. Not only this, but he is a well-to-do citizen and a man favorably known in Decatur county. A Democrat in politics, he served three years, 1912, 1913 and 1914, as a member of the Decatur county council. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott and son are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Elliott is a member of Westport lodge No. 52, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Sardinia Lodge No. 146, Knights of Pythias.

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#### MILTON E. EVANS.

Milton E. Evans, whose name heads this sketch, started in with the belief that a farm would yield him a better percentage of profit than any other field in which he could invest his funds, and with this end in view, he set to work to do his part in bringing about the desired result. He co-operated with his investment in every possible way, knowing that money and land alone would accomplish but little without the willing hands and good management, which were, after all, the principal factors of his success.

Milton E. Evans, of Jackson township, was born on August 27, 1862, and is a son of William A. Evans and Emily M. (Hice) Evans. He began his career with one hundred and twenty acres, just west of his present home. On his father's death, received one hundred and sixty acres of the estate. He later bought eighty acres, to which he subsequently added forty acres more. He has improved the place with a fine modern home of eight rooms, and has fitted it up with acetylene gas, water and bath. He also has a fine, large barn fifty by fifty feet, with shed adjoining. He has still further added to the beauty and value of his farm by planting shade trees, and building an iron fence. In the stock line, he makes a specialty of Duroc-Jersey hogs, and an annual output of about two carloads of cattle. He is now (1915) preparing to plant one hundred acres of corn, and has the same amount in wheat. His farm contains three sets of buildings. In politics, Mr. Evans is a Republican. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

William A. Evans was born in Ohio, November 3, 1835, and died in 1909. He was the son of William, Sr., and Martha Evans. Of his wife, Emily (Hice), little is known, except that she was a native of Pennsylvania, and that she was a sister of Samuel Logan, a pioneer. William A.

Evans lived on the Cross Roads farm all of his life, with the exception of two years, spent at Colorado. He owned three hundred and ninety acres of fertile land. His children were: Winston L., deceased; Milton, the subject of this sketch, and John C., whose death in 1914, was caused by a fall from a barn loft.

The paternal grandfather, William Evans, Sr., was a native of New Jersey, and immigrated to Ohio, and later, in 1837, to Indiana. The Evans family is of Welsh extraction. They settled in the woods, and the first thing their children did was to gather up a bucket of hickory nuts. They lived in a log cabin, and operated a grist-mill by horse power. They cleared land, and owned nearly five hundred acres at the time of Mr. Evans' death, which occurred about 1864.

Milton E. Evans was married on March 6, 1890, to Lillie M. Swope, who was born in Jackson township on May 27, 1863, a daughter of J. R. and Mary Swope, early settlers of Jackson township. Mr. and Mrs. Evans are the parents of two children (twins), Guy and Glen R., born on July 30, 1897. Guy died at the age of seventeen days. Glen R., now a student in Letts high school, will graduate in the class of 1916, when he will go into partnership with his father. He attended school six years without absence or tardiness.

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### JOHN J. SHAW.

During the years that have elapsed since the first settlers came to this state many changes have taken place and many wonderful inventions perfected. A great part of the farm labor is now done by machinery, which was unknown to the pioneers. Railroads and telephones make travel and communication rapid and accessible. Homes are provided with comforts and conveniences that are in striking contrast to the conditions which once prevailed. The subject of this sketch is among those who have seen these changes take place, and whose labors have helped to make this state a pleasant place in which to live.

John J. Shaw, of Jackson township, was born on December 30, 1847, in Marion township, Decatur county, Indiana, a son of John Shaw and Eliza (Hunter) Shaw. He lived for a time in Marion township, going in young manhood to Ripley county. His present home place was purchased in 1882. At first it consisted of twenty-three acres, and he afterward added to this, and it now amounts to one hundred and twenty acres. He is a mem-

ber of the Progressive party, and a member of Owen post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Westport. He went to the army, at the last call, in 1865, in Company I, Thirteenth Regiment Volunteer Infantry, and saw service the same summer in North Carolina. Mr. Shaw is retiring in his nature, and has always preferred the quiet life of a farm to that of the more active business life. He has built a neat, comfortable cottage and a large barn, both of which are well kept up. In the line of stock, his attention is devoted principally to Jersey cows.

John and Eliza (Hunter) Shaw were natives of Ohio, the former being a son of John Shaw, also a native of Ohio, and after his marriage lived for a time in Marion township. His wife, Eliza Hunter, was born on November 17, 1817. She was a daughter of Nathaniel Hunter, a noted pioneer of Decatur county, who came to the county and entered land in the twenties, and where he farmed all his life. John and Eliza (Hunter) Shaw were the parents of the following children: Thomas, deceased; Sarah, who became the wife of a Mr. Stevens; Rebecca became the wife of a Mr. Bailey; Charlotte, who married a Mr. Baker; John J., the subject of this sketch; Nathaniel lives at Bloomington, Monroe county, Indiana; Lucinda, deceased; Anna, deceased.

Nathaniel Hunter, the maternal grandfather, was born in 1787 or 1788, at Boone's Station, Kentucky, and was a son of Capt. Charles and Rebecca (Dumford) Hunter, who were married within the stockade walls of Boone's Station. Captain Hunter was killed by a shot from an Indian ambuscade, and his body was buried at Boone's Station, Kentucky. After his death, Mrs. Hunter married one Daniel Burch, and when Nathaniel was a lad of twelve the family moved to Butler county, Ohio, and later to Reading, Hamilton county. Nathaniel worked and gave his earnings to his stepfather. He was a pack-horseman and teamster in the quartermaster's department during the War of 1812.

On November 2, 1814, Nathaniel Hunter was united in marriage with Elizabeth Ferris, daughter of John and Mikey (Mires) Ferris, of Sheridan, Hamilton county, Ohio. Elizabeth Ferris was born, July 25, 1797. Her mother's family were of Holland descent. This pioneer couple began life by working out the first six months. Mr. Hunter received twelve dollars a month, and his wife seventy-five cents a week. He next engaged to John Merry for twenty dollars a month to work about the mills and distillery, remaining here two years, at the end of which time he invested the money he had saved in a flat-boat and a cargo of flour for the lower river trade. He was gone five months, going down the river as far as Natchez, sold his



flour for less than it cost him, disposed of his boat, and arrived home with three dollars. His next business engagement was with a millwright for a few months, and soon after he leased twenty acres, built a cabin and cleared off a little land. This was on the Mill Creek Bottoms, thirteen miles from Cincinnati, on the Dayton road. His next venture was as a contractor on the Miami Canal, where he built half a mile of that work, between Hamilton and Redding. After this he was employed by the Cincinnati & Dayton turnpike officials, where he made sometimes as high as ten dollars a day. With the money thus earned, Mr. Hunter invested in one hundred and seventy-four acres of land in Springfield township, Franklin county, Indiana, for which he paid about four hundred dollars. This was in 1828. Having built a fine brick house, good barn, and planted an orchard, he sold the place for four thousand five hundred dollars, and came to Sand Creek, Decatur county, and bought one hundred and sixty acres for seven hundred dollars. He moved on to this land in October in 1839, and soon bought one hundred and forty acres adjoining for two thousand dollars. After making this his home for about a quarter of a century, he disposed of it for eleven thousand dollars, and after living with his son-in-law, John E. Robbins, a few months, bought a home in Greensburg, where he spent his declining years.

To Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Ferris) Hunter were born the following children: John, born on September 17, 1815, died in 1817; Ann Eliza, November 12, 1817, married John Shaw; Rebecca, October 2, 1819, married Robert Wallace, died in Jasper county, Missouri, May 25, 1876; Sarah, March 25, 1822, married William W. Stephenson, died in Sand Creek township, in 1864; Nathan, September 25, 1824, married Sarah M. Anderson, and resided in Washington township; Nancy, December 8, 1826, married John E. Robbins and lived in Washington township; Charlotte, August 16, 1829, died October 18, 1834; Peter, April 18, 1834, married Caroline Blackmore, a daughter of Owen and Eliza Blackmore, early settlers of Washington township.

John J. Shaw was united in marriage, in 1870, with Eliza R. Skiles, who was born in Butler county, in 1843, a daughter of Isaac and Jane (George) Skiles, natives of Ohio, who came to Decatur county. To Mr. and Mrs. John J. Shaw was born one son, Edwin L., who attended West Point Military Academy and is now in the insurance business. He married Alice Harrell, and they have had one child, who died in infancy.

Mrs. Shaw is a member of the Christian Union church.

BARTON W. JAMESON.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch has the proud distinction of belonging to a class of brave men of but whom few remain. He served his country well and faithfully during the Civil War and feels that he has done his part toward the land of his birth. His record will make interesting reading for his descendants, who will, in turn, be able to tell their children what a brave and loyal man their ancestor was.

Barton W. Jameson, retired farmer, of Jackson township, was born on August 28, 1843, in Berks county, Pennsylvania, a son of Phineas P. and Jane (Wilson) Jameson. He lived at Milford with his father until his marriage, when he rented a place, on which he remained two years, and then moved to the old Handley farm in Jackson township. After living here for thirty-five years, Mr. Jameson moved to his present home, which, at that time, consisted of forty acres, to which he has since added twenty acres more, making sixty acres in all. Valuable improvements have been made on the place, including a comfortable house. After Mr. Handley's death, he took charge of his estate, and cared for his three sisters-in-law until their death. He went to war September 17, 1862, in Company E, Eighty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, and arrived home, June 12, 1865, nearly three years later, after taking part in the following battles: Yazoo River, Siege of Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, Atlanta campaign, and Sherman's march to the sea. He was in Savannah, and went from Columbia to Goldsboro. He claims that the Confederates set fire to cotton piled in the streets of Columbia, thus causing the burning of that city—the Union soldiers were not to blame. Mr. Jameson was also in many minor battles and skirmishes. His division made a charge on the Savannah forts, and he was in the thick of the fight, from which he escaped without a wound, and was never in a hospital. Mr. Jameson is a Republican. He is a member of the Christian church, and is a member of the West Point Fred Small Post No. 531, Grand Army of the Republic.

Phineas P. Jameson was born on September 19, 1815, and died, April 12, 1883. His wife, Jane (Wilson) Jameson, was born on February 5, 1810. Phineas P. Jameson was of old pioneer stock, and a native of Pennsylvania. His father was the Rev. Jacob Jameson. Phineas P. came to Bartholomew county in the spring of 1858, moving later to a farm on the county line, going later to a farm near Milford, after which he moved to the William Fix farm, three miles east of Hartsville, and then to the Levi

Moore farm on the Hartsville pike. From there he went to the Davis farm west of Burney, finally settling on the Venner farm, where he died.

To Phineas and Jane (Wilson) Jameson were born five children, as follow: Mary Ann was born on October 5, 1836, and died on May 22, 1873; Sarah Jane, September 11, 1840, married Davis Hinton; Barton W., August 28, 1843, the subject of this sketch; Martha F., April 28, 1847, married William Pumphrey; Caroline L., March 18, 1853, married Joseph Oliphant.

The paternal grandfather was the Rev. Jacob Jameson, who was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, December 6, 1793, and was married, July 27, 1813, to Mary A. Saylor, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and united with the Baptist church, August 27, 1814, at Springfield, Pennsylvania, where he was licensed to preach, February 27, 1827. He was ordained a deacon in May, 1823, at Philadelphia. He later moved to Lawrenceburg, and was an elder there in 1839. His wife, Mary, died in 1868, and he afterward married Jane Smith, of Harrison, Ohio, who died in 1879. He died on March 22, 1881.

Barton W. Jameson was married, October 20, 1867, to Lizzie M. Handley, who was born, May 11, 1844, in Ohio, and died, March 4, 1874. She was a daughter of Robert and Nancy Handley, and came with her parents to Decatur in 1846. Robert Handley was born on November 6, 1801, and died in Decatur county on January 6, 1873. When he first came to Decatur county, he settled in Jackson township. His wife, Nancy, died on December 19, 1861. They were the parents of eight children, namely: James, Samuel, Margaret, Jane, Catherine, Rebecca, John and Elizabeth.

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#### DANIEL WEBSTER ELLIOTT.

Among the successful farmers of a past generation in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, was Daniel Webster Elliott, who was born on April 3, 1841, in Jennings county, and who died on May 4, 1897.

Daniel Webster Elliott was the son of David and Lucinda (Spears) Elliott, who came to Decatur county when Daniel Webster was a mere lad. The father having died when Daniel W. was a lad, his widow, the mother of Daniel W., lived in Greensburg for some time.

Daniel Webster Elliott was married on May 29, 1864, at Sardinia, to Cordelia Bake, the daughter of Eli and Catherine (Risley) Bake, the for-

mer of whom was born on June 23, 1813, in Union county, Indiana, and who died on January 9, 1899. Eli Bake was married to Catherine Risley on December 24, 1834. She was born on October 6, 1817, in New Jersey, and died on March 7, 1904. Eli Bake moved to Decatur county in 1842, where he and his wife reared a large family and prospered. Of their twelve children, three died in infancy, Catherine, Elizabeth and one who died unnamed. The other children were as follow: Louis; Mrs. Amanda Gant, of Minneapolis, Kansas; Mrs. Clara Gant, of Kingfisher, Oklahoma; Mrs. Cordelia Elliott, widow of Daniel W. Elliott; Perry, of Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Lucinda Matthew, deceased; Mrs. Martha Reilley, of Sardinia; William, of Jackson township, and Mrs. Louisa Shaw, of Westport.

Eli and Catherine Bake came overland from New Jersey to Indiana, and after coming to this state faced many hardships, being compelled to live for a time on parched corn. Eventually, however, they became well-to-do, and Eli Bake, who was always a hard worker, kept three hands and owned several farms. During a part of his life he operated a broom factory and sold his brooms in Louisville, Kentucky, and in many other cities.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Webster Elliott lived the first year on a farm northeast of Westport and then moved to a farm one mile north of Sardinia, where they lived for three years. Subsequently, they purchased eighty acres of land, which is a part of the present farm, and in 1894 purchased eighty acres additional. After Mr. Elliott's death, Mrs. Elliott built a splendid new house and moved the barn. She has a very attractive place on a widely-traveled highway and is surrounded with all of the comforts possible on the farm.

To Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Webster Elliott were born seven children, namely: Mrs. Minerva Alice Gardner, born on September 27, 1865; Marion Monroe, a farmer, February 9, 1868; Cora May, November 18, 1870, married a Mr. Gant and lives at Columbus; Mrs. Rozenia Anderson, July 31, 1873, lives near Hartsville in Bartholomew county; Harry Clinton, March 19, 1876, lives in Elizabethtown, Indiana; Mrs. Lucinda Isophene Tremain lives at Adams; Mrs. Lena Osthimer lives at home.

Mrs. Elliott has thirteen grandchildren, as follow: Mrs. Minerva Gardner has three children, Agnes Collins, Olsa and Dora; Mrs. Cora Gant has four children, Audrey, Guy, Gertrude and Kenneth; Mrs. Rozenia Anderson has three children, Garnet, Hazel and Opal; Harry has one daughter, Thelma; Marion has one son, Lester, and Lucinda has one daughter, Margaret.

The late Daniel W. Elliott was a Democrat. He was a member of the



Methodist Episcopal church, and was active in church work throughout his life, and was a steward at Wesley Chapel. He joined the church in January, 1876, during the pastorate of Reverend Lathrop. Mrs. Elliott is a refined and cultured woman, a woman of exquisite tastes and one who is possessed of a keen sense for the beautiful. She is especially well known in Jackson township, as was her husband during his life.

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JOHN S. OWEN.

A native Hoosier son, John S. Owen has been for many years a farmer in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, where he and his sister own the old Owen homestead, comprising a hundred and twenty acres. He is one of a large family of children, of whom two brothers fought valiantly in the cause of their country during the Civil War, one of them giving up his life on the field of battle. These early days were associated with the first struggles of the Republican party, and with its first candidate elected to the presidency, Abraham Lincoln. It is not, therefore, surprising that he has been a Republican. His early recollections are associated with the enlistment of his two brothers and with their service during a period in which the new party and the beloved man it had elected to the chief executive office of this land were on trial.

John S. Owen, now a well-known farmer and the joint owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in Jackson township, was born on September 13, 1847, in Fayette county, Indiana. His parents, Thomas and Mahala (Walker) Owen, were natives of South Carolina and Pulaski county, Kentucky, respectively. The former was a son of Edward Owen, a native of Scotland, who came to this country with his parents and settled in South Carolina in pioneer times. Thomas Owen was one of a large family of children, who made his way northward from South Carolina to Indiana, and here married. In 1849 he settled on a farm in Decatur county. This farm was located in Jackson township, and here he built a log cabin, and proceeded to establish a home in the wilderness. Some years later, in 1866, he built a frame house. Two of his sons, William and Anderson, served in the Civil War. William, who enlisted in Company D, Seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, was killed on June 18, 1864, at the assault on Petersburg, Virginia. Anderson was a private in Company E, Thirty-seventh Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Other children

of Thomas and Mahala Owen, several of whom died in infancy, were Mrs. Polly Johnson, deceased; Louisa, who is the housekeeper for the subject of this sketch, and who with him owns the old home farm; Mrs. Matilda Johnson, of Greensburg; Thomas, deceased; Mrs. Fannie M. Lett, of California, and Richard M., who lives on the home farm. Thomas Owen died in February, 1884, at the age of seventy-seven, his wife surviving fourteen years and passing away at the age of eighty-four in 1898.

John S. Owen has always lived on the home farm, and until the death of his parents cared for them tenderly in conjunction with his beloved sister. Mr. Owen is a good farmer and has a highly productive farm in this township, a man honored and respected by the people of his community, devoted to all good works and all worthy public enterprises. Although an ardent Republican, he has held only minor township offices. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons No. 36, at Westport. Neither Mr. Owen nor his sister, Miss Louisa Owen, has ever married.

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### JACOB LESLIE THURSTON.

Since the creation of the office of advisory board in Indiana some fifteen years ago, a board whose purpose it is to keep tab on the expenses and expenditures of the county and township, it is a known fact that in the men who have been elected to fill this office the farmer as a class has been far in the majority. The farmer as a class is often the butt of the humorist and is the stock in trade for the slapstick actor and the funny-column writer, but when it comes to filling a place that is of particular importance from the standpoint of substantial honesty, the farmer is most often the man chosen, and so when Jackson township wanted a man of particular honesty and substantial worth to fill a vacancy on her advisory board, she choose Jacob Leslie Thurston.

Jacob Leslie Thurston was born on November 4, 1869, one mile north and one mile east of where he now resides, and when he was eighteen months old his father moved to the present site of the home of Mr. Thurston in Jackson township.

Jacob Leslie Thurston was the son of William and Mary Jane (Evans) Thurston. William Thurston was born on November 26, 1838, and died on September 11, 1897, and his wife, Mary Jane (Evans) was born on January 23, 1845, and died on August 27, 1897.

William Thurston was the son of Lewis Thurston and Martha (Birch) Thurston. Lewis Thurston was born on January 1, 1806, in Pennsylvania, and came to Indiana when quite young and settled in Jackson township, where, on November 14, 1830, he married Martha Birch, who was born in Indiana, on May 31, 1813. To this union were born ten children, six sons and four daughters, namely: Elizabeth, who was born on August 15, 1831; Charles, January 14, 1834; Mary, August 31, 1836; William, the father of the subject of this sketch; Enos, July 4, 1841; Sarah, September 26, 1845; Benjamin, January 26, 1845; Thomas, December 19, 1848; Emily, May 28, 1852, and Morgan, January 24, 1854.

Lewis Thurston was one of the very earliest settlers in Decatur county and at the time of his death he was the owner of a fine tract of two hundred and seventy-five acres of land. William Thurston, who was the fourth child of Lewis Thurston, and the father of the subject of this sketch, was born and reared in Jackson township, and was the owner of two hundred and fifty-three acres of land. He was an active and stanch churchman and was an elder in the Christian church for many years. He married Mary Jane Evans on October 8, 1863.

Mary Jane Evans was the daughter of Ratcliffe and Melissa Lane (Vailes) Evans, who were married on August 7, 1829, and who were the parents of the following children: Laban, Daniel, Mary Jane, John Russ, Martha Ann, Sarah Ellen, James, William Calvin, Melinda Emeline, Thomas and Charles.

William Thurston was the father of the following children: Martha Helen Fear, who is the wife of S. W. Fear; an infant son, who died on March 29, 1866; Edward, who was born on April 23, 1867; Jacob Leslie, the subject of this sketch; Charles, March 31, 1874, and who is now deceased; Clarence, July 22, 1882, and who is now deceased, and Ora, January 6, 1892.

Jacob Leslie Thurston was educated in the common schools and began, at the age of twenty-two, to do for himself. He farmed on his own initiative on his father's farm for three years, and then, on January 12, 1895, he was married to Mabel E. Anderson, and they continued to live for another year with Mr. Thurston's parents, and then built a small cottage, in which they lived until the Thurston parents died, and the home place was then sold, and they purchased a portion of this (one hundred acres), on which Mr. Thurston, practically with his own hands, built one of the most beautiful farm houses to be found anywhere. This house is equipped with its

own gas plant for lighting, with a water system, and it is heated by a furnace. A fine orchard is near the house.

Mabel E. (Anderson) Thurston, the wife of Jacob Leslie Thurston, was born in Bartholomew county near Clifty Falls on March 15, 1873. She was the daughter of Combs and Margaret Tetrick, natives of New Jersey and Ohio, respectively. Margaret Tetrick died on January 3, 1877, and her husband died on April 18, 1911.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Leslie Thurston are: Ruby May, who was born on March 25, 1897, and was graduated from the Greensburg high school in the class of 1915, and Marion Earl, who was born on November 6, 1899, and who is now in the Waynesburg high school.

Mr. Thurston takes great interest in local politics and affiliates with the Democratic party. He was elected a member of the advisory board of Jackson township in 1914. He is a deacon in the Christian church of Waynesburg, and is a man of power and influence in his community.

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#### NICHOLAS ANDERSON.

No farmer of Jackson township is better known than Nicholas Anderson, who has lived on the farm he now occupies for a period of forty-one years. He has lived in this community a life of rare consecration, not only to his life's vocation, but of rare consecration as well to the interests of his neighbors and fellow citizens generally. He has lived to rear three children, who are well established in homes of their own and have families of their own. He has assisted his children to get a start in the world as only a kind, loving and wise father could do. He and his good wife have always been hard workers and, as a consequence of their frugal living, economy in many lines and saving, they have prospered until now they have, aside from the help they have given their married children, a substantial competence which will keep them in comfort the rest of their lives.

Nicholas Anderson was born on October 1, 1844, in Jackson township, two and one-half miles north of Alert in a log cabin, the son of Charles and Lottie (Gross) Anderson, the former of whom was born in New Jersey. He was the son of Nicholas Anderson, the first to come to Decatur county at the time of the "Fallen Timbers" or during the thirties. Here he entered land and cleared it of the timber, establishing a home in the wilderness. Here Charles Anderson was reared and married to Lottie Gross, the daughter of



Frederick Gross, a native of Germany, who came to this country when his daughter Lottie was a mere infant. Charles and Lottie Anderson had six children, of whom Nicholas, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest. The other children were Fred, John, Charles, Catherine and Margaret. John and Margaret are deceased. Charles makes his home with his brother, Nicholas. Catherine married a Mr. Irvin and lives in Nebraska. The mother of these children died in 1861 and after her death Charles Anderson married Mrs. Louisa Coleman. By this marriage there were five children: Mrs. Mary Etta Tremain, of Columbus; Annie, who lives in Kokomo; William, who resides in Connersville; Mrs. Cora Swartz, of Hope; and James, who lives at Alert.

On February 8, 1877, Nicholas Anderson was married to Hannah L. Carson, who was born on October 22, 1858, in Geneva township, Jennings county, Indiana, the daughter of David and Hannah (Bennett) Carson, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter a daughter of Samuel Bennett, a nobleman and excise officer, who, displeased with the government, left England quietly in 1820 and settled in Jennings county, Indiana. There he purchased over six hundred acres of land and became, within a few years, a famous leader of the people in his community. He was a justice of the peace for many years and, being a man of education and rare intelligence, transacted for the settlers of Decatur and Jennings counties all of their legal business. David Carson was the son of Hiram Carson, of Pennsylvania, who came to Jennings county in 1831.

Hannah L. Carson was one of eight children born to her parents, she being the seventh. The others were as follow: George, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, who served three years and eight months in the Sixty-eighth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War; James B., of near Celina, Kansas; Dr. C. H., who died in Kansas City, Missouri; Mary A., deceased; David Taylor, deceased; Elizabeth, the wife of D. F. Shera, of Columbus; and Mrs. Rachel Galloway, of Jackson township.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have lived on their present farm for thirty-eight years together and Mr. Anderson has lived on it for forty-one years. He bought his first tract of forty acres in 1874, when he had only five hundred dollars, paying fifty dollars an acre for the land. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of three children, namely: George E., who lives in the north-western part of Missouri, married Edith Strader and has four children, Jeannette, James, Marguerite and Mildred; James D., of Jackson township, who married Mollie Beesley and has two children, Beatrice Elizabeth and Ruth Helen; and Leroy, who died in 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have

given each of the two married sons forty acres apiece and, including the land which has been given to the sons, they have owned three hundred and forty acres altogether. Eighty acres of the farm land belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson is located in Bartholomew county.

Democracy it seems is a political prepossession of the Anderson family, the family having been Democrats for several generations. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Christian Union church. They have done their part not only to promote the physical development of the soil of Jackson township, Decatur county, but they have done their part to develop a wholesome and interesting community spirit. Mr. Anderson is a man of strong convictions and a leader in his neighborhood. He is a man whose opinions and belief are respected by all who know him.

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#### SAMUEL KELLY.

The burdens of the Civil War were not alone on the men who went out in the field to fight, but often on the mothers and children who were left at home and in too many cases were orphaned and widowed. The immediate burdens of war are scarcely ever as terrible as the subsequent burdens that are inflicted on its victims. Many a son is compelled in his early youth to take up the family burdens of a father lost in war. Such was the case of the subject of this sketch, Samuel Kelly.

Samuel Kelly was the son of John W. and Harriet (Russell) Kelly, natives of West Virginia, who came to Decatur county at the time of their marriage. John W. Kelly enlisted in the Eighty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry and contracted measles at Memphis, Tennessee, in 1865, and died. Harriet (Russell) Kelly died in 1901.

John W. and Harriet (Russell) Kelly were the parents of six children, all now deceased except Samuel and Matthew. There were three sons, Samuel, Joshua and Matthew, and three daughters, Minerva, Mary A., and Anna.

Samuel Kelly, after his father's death, lived with Matthew Kelly, a great-uncle of his father, south of Waynesburg until he was twenty-one years old. He then took employment in Columbus for a year with Mooney & Company, tanners. He then married and settled two years in Grant county and then came to Alert and engaged in a profitable nursery business which he conducted until 1912, when he sold out this business and engaged in the grain

and coal business in Alert until in the spring of 1914, when he again sold out his business and worked for the company to which he had sold until November at which time he was elected to the office of township trustee for Jackson township. His term of office was not to begin until in January of 1915, but on account of the death of Trustee Evans, he was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Evans' death and so began his duties as township trustee at once.

Samuel Kelly has been an active worker in the Democratic party in Jackson township for many years. He has served as township chairman of his party and was elected and re-elected to the office of township assessor for a period of ten years and was four years a deputy in this office. He is always present at township and county conventions of his party and has served more than once as a delegate to state conventions. He is a member of the Methodist church, and is an active and loyal lodge man, holding membership in the following fraternal organizations; the Free and Accepted Masons, of Alert and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Westport.

Samuel Kelly was married on March 16, 1880, to Cynthia A. Hamilton, a native of Decatur county, and the only living child of William and Nancy Hamilton, who came to Decatur county from Kentucky and settled in Sand Creek township.

Samuel Kelly is a fair type of the citizen who has struggled against hardships and has won a position of trust and influence among his neighbors.

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### JAMES HAMLIN SHAFER.

One of the well-known farmers of Jackson township, the proprietor of "Maple Leaf Farm," located one-half mile south of Alert, a man who is well known in this part of Decatur county, and who comes from an old family, is James Hamlin Shafer.

James Hamlin Shafer, who was born on the old Shafer homestead in a covered log house on May 21, 1853, is the son of a pioneer Methodist minister in this section, Rev. Daniel W. Shafer, who was born in 1817 and who died in April, 1897. He was a native of Franklin county, the son of John Shafer, of Pennsylvania, and came to Decatur county with his father at the same time the father of W. M. Shafer came here. James H. is a cousin of W. M. Shafer, of Westport. After coming to Jackson township about 1848, the Rev. Daniel W. Shafer became a prosperous and well-to-do citizen of this

community. He assisted in the building of Wesley Chapel and also of Mt. Olivet, located near his home, as well as in the construction of several neighboring churches, all of which he served as a minister. Before the breaking up of the Whig party, he was firmly attached to the principles of this party and when the Republican party was organized, he became a Republican and remained so all of his life. In 1878 he built a fine large house which is now occupied by his son. The home of James H. is just across the road from the old Shafer homestead, and the log house in which many members of the family were born and reared is partly standing today. Rev. Daniel W. Shafer married Audriah Shera, a native of Ireland, who was born in 1815 and who died in August, 1892. They were the parents of six children, all of whom are living: William Glover, a veteran of the Civil War, who lives in Kansas City, Missouri; John Whitmore, who lives at St. Paul, Minnesota; Mrs. Eliza Ann McGaughey, of Rogers, Arkansas; Sarah Ellen Shafer, of Indianapolis; Mrs. Julia Frances White, of Albany, Indiana; and James H., the subject of this sketch. At the time of his death, Rev. Daniel W. Shafer owned one hundred and sixty acres of land and his son, James H., received a sixth interest in this estate and, after eighty acres were sold, purchased the interest of the other heirs in the remainder. He has fifty-eight acres of land in his present farm and one hundred and sixty acres in Colorado. In 1910 Mr. Shafer and his wife went to Colorado and homesteaded a quarter section of government land. It is a splendid farm and is located near Ft. Morgan, Colorado.

James Hamlin Shafer received a liberal education early in life and for seven years was a teacher in the public schools of Decatur county. His education having begun in the common schools of Decatur county, it was finished in Hartsville College.

On April 20, 1886, James Hamlin Shafer was married to Kate Wright, who was born on September 6, 1860, near Burnsville in Bartholomew county. She was the daughter of John H. and Ann (Brown) Wright, natives of Delaware and Ohio, respectively. Both are now deceased, the father having died in August, 1892, and the mother on April 21, 1885. Mrs. Shafer's mother belonged to the Randall family, an old and wealthy family of Revolutionary ancestry. Mrs. Shafer had four brothers in the Civil War: Dr. Charles H., who died near Madison, Indiana, and who was an orderly sergeant; George Washington, who was captain of an Indiana company; John Francis, who was a teacher for many years and who was a corporal in the Union army, now lives at Topeka, Kansas; and James Kellogg, who was also a soldier and who died at the age of twenty-two years. Mrs. Shafer also



had two sisters: Mrs. Mary J. Shafer, the wife of William Shafer, of Kansas City; and Sidney Ann, who died in 1910.

With the exception of nine years in which Mr. Shafer was engaged in the furniture business at North Vernon, he has lived on his present farm practically all of his life. James Hamlin and Kate (Wright) Shafer are the parents of seven children, as follow: Daisy B., who is at home; Edna A., who is a teacher in the Amora schools; Lloyd Hamlin, who was a student in Moores Hill College and was graduated with the class of 1915; Ruth, who is a teacher at Sunman, in Ripley county; Sydney Daniel, who is a student at Moores Hill College; Olive and Irene, who are students in the school at Alert. Mr. Shafer's eldest son served one year in the United States army.

Mr. and Mrs. Shafer have lived to rear a splendid family of children and one of which they have every reason to be proud. All of the members of the family are bright and capable young men and women who will undoubtedly achieve for themselves marks of no small importance. In Jackson township, the Shafers are well known for their interest in education, Mr. Shafer having been during all of his life, one of the ablest and ardent exponents of public education. The Shafer family stands very high in this community.

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#### CALEB STARK WRIGHT.

Few men now living in Clay township, this county, have exerted a wider or more beneficent influence therein than Caleb Stark Wright, former township trustee and one of the most prosperous and progressive farmers in the western part of Decatur county. Mr. Wright has a fine farm of one hundred and fifty-three acres in Clay township, on which he has erected one of the best farm houses in this part of the state, his home being one of the pleasantest and most delightful homes thereabout. The mammoth barn and large silo, together with the other outbuildings on the place, bespeak the enterprise of the owner and attest his excellent business qualities; for Mr. Wright looks upon farming as a business instead of a mere haphazard proceeding in which the elements of nature are expected to relieve the tiller of the soil of any responsibility in the matter. The hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Wright is of that type so often referred to as real "old southern hospitality," and their home is one of the most popular gathering places in that whole neighborhood. In his public service Mr. Wright placed Clay township under a debt of obligation which never properly can be paid and his fellow citizens hold him in

the highest esteem, his counsel and advice being sought generally on matters of public concern. He is warmly interested in the educational affairs of the township and during his administration of the office of trustee devoted the most thoughtful care to the interests of the schools, it being his theory that in the education of the children none but the very best and most approved methods should be employed. It was during his administration that the fine high school building at Burney was erected and the people of Clay township are unanimous in the declaration that the schools of the township were very largely advanced by reason of his constant application of sound business principles thereto.

Broad in his views and liberal in his dealings with his fellow men, Mr. Wright has a well-deserved popularity in the part of the county in which he resides, this popularity having been proved upon the occasion of his election to the office of trustee. Though the head of the Republican ticket carried the township by a majority of about thirty-five, Mr. Wright, who stood for election on the Democratic ticket, was elected by a clear majority of twenty-seven votes, amply attesting the esteem in which he was held. The same broad business policies enter into his transactions in connection with his extensive farming interests. He believes in handling only pure bred stock and his sales of live stock prove the soundness of his judgment in this direction, his stock invariably bringing fancy prices; a policy which has proved highly profitable to him. Mr. Wright has his own gas well on his farm and the question of light and heat, so far as he is concerned, is thus effectually solved. Energetic, industrious and capable, Mr. Wright, now in the sixth decade of his life, finds himself quite well circumstanced and capable of enjoying life to the full. Full of the zest of living, he takes a close interest in current affairs and is fully informed on all matters of public concern, being a most entertaining conversationalist and a right genial gentleman.

Caleb Stark Wright was born on the farm on which he still lives, in Clay township, Decatur county, Indiana, five miles southwest of the town of Greensburg, sixty-three years ago and has consequently seen the greater part of the development of that section of the county and has been an active participant in the same. He is the son of Richard and Lovica (Stark) Wright, pioneers of Clay township, the former of whom was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, in 1821 and died at his home in this county in 1884. When about twenty-one years of age Richard Wright came to Decatur county from Virginia, settling in Clay township, near the village of Liberty. The Christian church in that village now stands on the part of the farm which he bought at the time of his arrival in this county. He bought a quarter section

of land which practically was in its primeval state, and in the wilderness made his home, gradually bringing the farm to a fine state of cultivation, the same now being of the very first quality. The Wright family is of English origin and Richard Wright was the son of Charles Wright, the latter of whom came to this county from Virginia some time after his son, Richard, had located here and spent the rest of his life in the home of his son, dying when Caleb S., the subject of this sketch, was about seven years of age.

Richard Wright became one of the substantial residents of Clay township and was held in very high repute in that neighborhood. He married Lovica Stark, daughter of Caleb and Anne (Boone) Stark, who came to Decatur county from Kentucky in 1826, settling in Clay township, and founding the well-known Stark family of this county, a now numerous progeny. Caleb Stark was the son of Joseph Stark, who was a son of John Stark, a native of New Hampshire, who moved from that state to Virginia, later migrating to Kentucky, where he became an influential pioneer in Henry county, in the latter state. Joseph Stark was a member of the local guards of Virginia, the "minute men," who constituted the militia organization of the Old Dominion, and was sent with his company into what then was known as Kentucky county, Virginia, now the state of Kentucky, to put down an uprising of the Cherokee Indians, and for two years was engaged in Indian warfare. During that time he became so impressed with the value of Kentucky lands, particularly in the blue-grass region, over which he had ranged as an Indian fighter, that he decided to locate there as soon as the opportunity presented. In 1780 when Daniel Boone headed his famous band of Virginia settlers into Kentucky, Joseph Stark joined the colony; first settling in Shelby county, where his children were born and where his wife died. Upon the death of his wife he moved to Henry county, in Kentucky, where he bought a farm at Floyd's Fork, near the headwaters of the Little Kentucky river and established his home, remaining there the rest of his life and founding a numerous family, the descendants of which now are widely scattered.

The Stark family is of ancient and honorable descent, having had its origin in Scotland in the days of the last James, when John Muirhead, a German soldier, for an act of signal bravery by which he saved the life of the king, was created bishop of Glasgow and his name changed, by royal decree, to Stark, German for "strength." In succeeding generations the first son in the family invariably was christened John until John Stark, born in 1665, named his first son Archibald. This John Stark was the founder of the family in America, he having emigrated to this country in 1710. His eldest son, Archibald Stark, was the father of General Stark, of Revolution-

ary fame. John Stark, the founder of the American family of that name, was the father of nine children: Archibald, born in 1693; James, 1695; John, 1697; Richard, 1699; Louise, 1701; Daniel, 1703; Samuel, 1705; Susannah, 1707; Silas, 1709. In 1716 James Stark married Elizabeth Thornton, of Londonderry, New Hampshire, sister of Matthew Thornton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and in 1730 moved with his family to Stafford, Virginia.

To James and Elizabeth (Thornton) Stark were born fifteen children, namely: John, born in 1717; James, 1719; Thomas, 1721; Jeremiah, 1722; William, 1725; Mary, 1727; Susannah, 1729; Elizabeth, 1730; Sarah, 1731; Jane, 1733; Anne, 1736; Benjamin, 1738; Donald, 1744; Isabella, 1746; Lydia, 1748. It is to the firstborn of this family, John Stark, born in 1717, that the Stark family in Decatur county owes its descent. John Stark was a minister of the gospel. In 1746 he married Hanson Porter, who died, whereupon he married, secondly, in 1756, Hannah Eaves, a beautiful English governess who had been giving lessons in the family. To this first union there were born the following children: Anne, born in 1746; Eliza, 1749; Sarah, 1752, and William, 1754. To the second union there were born: James, born in 1757; Thomas, 1759; John, 1761; Mary, 1762; John, 1766; Susan, 1768, and Joseph, 1771, the latter of whom moved to Kentucky, as noted above and was the father of Caleb Stark, who married Anne Boone and was the father of Lovica Stark, who married Richard Wright and is the mother of Caleb Stark Wright, the immediate subject of this sketch. Joseph Stark had three other sons beside Caleb, they being Effner, Phillip and Rheuben.

John Stark, the Virginian, the great-great-grandfather of Mr. Wright was a man of superb courage and a great hunter. On one occasion while hunting in the depths of the great forest in the vicinity of his home he was captured by Indians and taken to the Indian camp, where the chief decided that he should be compelled to "run the gauntlet." Stalwart warriors of the tribe were lined up in parallel rows, each brave armed with a war club, and Mr. Stark was commanded to seek what safety he might find in flight between these two formidable rows of armed redskins. With a cat-like spring, the courageous hunter leaped upon the two nearest redskins and tearing from their hands the clubs which they held, laid about him, right and left, knocking the two astonished warriors to the ground, rendering them *hors de combat*. This act of strength and courage so impressed the magnanimous chief that he gave Mr. Stark his liberty and a safe escort to his home, there ever afterward existing a firm friendship between the chief and the mighty



hunter. Afterward this same John Stark served as a colonel in the British army in the French and Indian wars.

To Richard and Lovica (Stark) Wright were born nine children, four of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: Mrs. Sarah L. McGee, who lives in Iowa; Caleb Stark, the subject of this sketch; Richard Todd, who lives in Colorado; Mrs. Minnie M. Myers, of Clay township, this county, and Loda, who lives at Westport, this county.

In 1882 Caleb Stark Wright was united in marriage to Alpha B. Robbins, member of a pioneer family of Decatur county, daughter of Holman Robbins, who was a son of William Robbins, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Alma, who married James Calvin Thornburg, of this county, and has one son, Merritt, who was born on March 25, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright are members of the Baptist church and always have taken a deep interest in the moral development of the community in which for so many years they have labored with an unselfish devotion to the common good. They are active in all good works affecting that community and are held in the very highest esteem throughout that whole countryside.

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#### ALEXANDER PORTER.

In the industrial life of Decatur county there is one name, a firm of large building contractors, that stands out strong and dominant, and no review of the history of the times in this county would be complete without fitting mention of the same, together with proper reference to the men who have brought the business which they represent to its present proud eminence. Alexander Porter, of the firm of Pulse & Porter, contractors and builders, at Greensburg, Indiana, the biggest concern of its kind in the state, is too well known locally to require an introduction to the readers of this volume living in this county, but, in the interest of the future, the biographer takes pleasure in setting out at this point a brief resume of his notably successful and useful career.

The firm with which Mr. Porter is associated, Pulse & Porter, was organized in December, 1886, by William C. Pulse, William R. Porter and Alexander Porter. This firm has employed as high as seven hundred men at one time, and has been engaged in the construction of some of the most notable buildings in Indiana, among which may be mentioned the Baptist church, the Swan block, two main buildings of the Odd Fellows' state home,

the Odd Fellows' block, the Carnegie library, remodeling the Presbyterian and the Centenary Methodist churches, the high school building, the sanitary sewer system, all at Greensburg; the power-house of the Indiana Union Traction company, at Anderson; power-house of the Indianapolis & Newcastle Railroad Company, at Newcastle; the Maxwell-Brisco motor plant, at Newcastle; the Gentry hotel, at Bloomington; Science hall, at Indiana State University; Science hall, at Hanover College; Hendricks library, at the same college; Spring Hill Presbyterian church and the Southeastern Indiana Hospital for the Insane, at Madison, the latter contract involving the expenditure of one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Alexander Porter was born on a farm three and one-half miles southwest of the city of Greensburg, Indiana, December 2, 1861, the son of Matthew E. and Rebecca (McKinney) Porter, the former of whom also was a native of Decatur county, and the latter of whom was born in Orange county, this state.

Matthew E. Porter was born on July 5, 1836, a son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Elder) Porter, the former of whom was the first white child born in Dearborn county, Indiana. Alexander Porter was born in 1799, the son of David Porter, a native of Virginia, who, after having served for five years as a British soldier in the French and Indian wars, took up arms in the cause of the patriots during the Revolutionary War and for five years served valiantly in the army of General Washington. Following the Revolution, David Porter came west and for a time was located at the point where the city of Cincinnati later sprang up. While there, in 1795, he waited until General Wayne made a treaty with the Indians. He later proceeded down the river and settled in Dearborn county, this state. At that time there was but one brick house in Cincinnati and but one log house in what since has come to be the city of Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Locating permanently in Dearborn county, David Porter carved a home out of the wilderness and there reared his family, his other children, beside Alexander, above mentioned, being David, John, James and Mrs. Mary Evans.

Alexander Porter left his father's place in Dearborn county when he was twenty-three years of age and moved to this county, where he for a time leased school land, later entering from the government the land three and one-half miles southwest of Greensburg on which his grandson and namesake, Alexander Porter, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born, and which is still owned by the family, Mr. Porter and his two brothers being in possession of the same. On this farm of two hundred and fifty-

six acres this pioneer spent the remainder of his life and on the same farm his son, Matthew E., father of the present Alexander Porter, spent his entire life, rearing his family there.

When he was thirty-six years of age, Alexander Porter married Elizabeth Elder, the daughter of the Rev. Matthew Elder, a pioneer Baptist minister, who came to Decatur county in 1824 and located four miles south of Greensburg, where he founded the Union Baptist church, which still is in existence. He was a farmer as well as a preacher, and there he reared his family, living to a ripe old age, proving a very tower of strength to the pioneer settlement. Rev. Matthew Elder organized the first Baptist church in Decatur county. He died on July 7, 1865, at the age of seventy-nine years. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, namely: Mrs. William Goodwin; Elizabeth, who married Alexander Porter; Jane, who married Silas Porter; Martha, who married Elijah Goodwin; Rebecca, who married William McCormick; Andrew, deceased, married a Miss Jackson, and Asenath, who married Peter Martin. To Alexander and Elizabeth (Elder) Porter were born two children, Matthew E. and Asenath, the latter of whom died at the age of three years. Alexander Porter died on September 9, 1891, aged ninety-two, and his widow died on October 22, 1893, at the age of eighty.

Matthew E. Porter remained on the home farm all his life, being the stay and comfort of his parents in their latter days. In 1857 he was united in marriage to Rebecca Clarice McKinney, who was born on February 20, 1836, near Paoli, in Orange county, Indiana, the daughter of John and Martha (Van Cleave) McKinney, natives of Kentucky and early settlers in Indiana, where John McKinney was a prominent farmer in the neighborhood in which he lived, an ardent Republican and a leader in the congregation of the Presbyterian church thereabout. John McKinney and his wife were the parents of the following children: James; Mrs. Sarah J. Porter; William R.; Margaret; Mary, wife of William Goddard; Rebecca, wife of Matthew E. Porter; Emily, wife of John Pulse, and Matthew, who died in his youth.

To Matthew E. and Rebecca Clarice (McKinney) Porter were born nine children, namely: Martha A., who married J. W. McConnell and lives on a farm six miles south of Greensburg; Alexander, the immediate subject of this sketch; John, who died in 1893, at the age of twenty-nine years; Elizabeth, who died in 1881, at the age of eleven years; William R., a member of the firm of Pulse & Porter, in charge of the branch plant at Hope, Indiana; Barton, who died in 1902; Dr. Edward A., a practicing physician

at Burney, Indiana; James, who occupies the old home farm in this county, and Andrew, who resides in Greensburg. These children all were born in the house in which their father had been rocked in the cradle and all were rocked in the same cradle in which their father had been rocked. While remaining on the old homestead, Matthew E. Porter made an extensive addition thereto, in 1892 buying a farm adjoining and erecting a fine home, in which he and his wife spent their last days in happy comfort. He was recognized as one of the most solidly-established farmers in Decatur county. He was one of the organizers of the well-known Farmers Insurance Company and was active in all works looking to the development of the best interests of the community in which his whole life was spent. His death occurred in 1908, his wife having preceded him to the grave in 1901.

Alexander Porter received his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, following which he spent one year at the normal school at Danville, Indiana, and three years at the Indiana State Normal at Terre Haute. He then taught school for four years, at the end of which time he engaged in the lumber and construction business, in 1886 forming the association with his brother, William R., and William C. Pulse, mentioned in the introductory paragraph of this review, which, from a small beginning, has grown to the great concern which is now recognized as the leading construction company in the state of Indiana.

In 1892 Alexander Porter was united in marriage to Ada R. Richardson, of Hartwell, Ohio, the daughter of Colonel Richardson, of Civil War fame. To this union five children have been born, as follow: Elder A., who is a student in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor; Sarah M., who is a student in the Randolph-Macon School, at Lynchburg, Virginia; William B., a student in the Greensburg high school; Marietta, who is still in the grade school, and one son, John, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Porter are members of the Presbyterian church and have reared their children in the faith of that church.

Mr. Porter is a Democrat and gives the most earnest attention to the political affairs of his home county. Notwithstanding his extensive private business, he ever has been able to find time to devote a good citizen's attention to the public business, and served as city treasurer of Greensburg for six years, 1898-1904. He is one of the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of Decatur county and no movement having to do with the welfare of the county finds him hanging back when it comes time to promote the same. He and his wife take an active part in the social affairs of their home town and are deservedly popular in their large circle of friends. Mr. Porter



also is actively concerned in the fraternal societies of the town, and is a Mason, an Odd Fellow, an Elk and a Red Man, in the affairs of which lodges he is warmly interested.

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### CLARENCE LEORA HILL, D. D. S.

Clarence Leora Hill, who was educated for the practice of dentistry and practiced this profession of six years in Valparaiso, Indiana, is a striking example of a man who has turned his attention from professional life to the farm and it must be admitted that he has enjoyed since coming to the farm in 1907 a most gratifying success in agriculture. He is a man who is fond of life in the open, having been reared in the country and having spent the most of his life there.

Clarence Leora Hill, farmer and dentist of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, who owns one hundred and twenty acres of land at his home place one mile north of Alert, and a hundred and sixty-five acres one-half mile north and one and one-half miles west of Sardinia, was born on May 24, 1877, in Bartholomew county, near the Bartholomew and Decatur county line. He is the son of Martin and Elizabeth (McManiman) Hill, the former of whom was a native of Bartholomew county, born in 1848, and the latter of whom was a native of Decatur county, born in 1852. Elizabeth McManiman was the daughter of William McManiman, an early settler of Decatur county, who lived near Waynesburg. In 1884 Martin Hill moved to a farm one-half mile east of Waynesburg, and there he still resides. He is the son of J. C. Hill, an early settler of Decatur county.

Clarence Leora Hill was educated in the district schools of Decatur county, at the Danville Normal School, the Indianapolis College of Commerce, the Louisville College of Dentistry, and the Indiana Dental College at Indianapolis where he was graduated in 1901. He practiced his profession at Valparaiso, Indiana, for six years after his graduation, and then came to Decatur county, Indiana, to take charge of his firm.

About a year after his graduation from the Indiana Dental College at Indianapolis, Clarence Leora Hill was married on August 1, 1902, to Joeva Green, of Rensselaer, Indiana, who is a native of Ohio, and the daughter of Joseph and Jane (Crumley) Green. The Greens came from Ohio to Indiana, and settled near Rensselaer, where Joseph died. He was a "forty-niner," having gone to California when gold was first discovered. Mrs. Hill's mother

resides in the home of her daughter and son-in-law in Decatur county. Doctor and Mrs. Hill have had six children, Joseph Graydon, Martin Dwight, Mary Josephene, Paul Eugene, Rose Wendall and John Wesley.

On Doctor Hill's farm, located one mile north of Alert in Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, there are two sets of buildings. He has a modern house, a large barn, fifty by sixty-eight feet in diameter, and a silo which was erected in 1914. Doctor Hill is an extensive raiser of mules. He buys weanling mule colts, and raises them until they are ready for the market. At the present time he has twenty-five head on the farm. Aside from his interest in mules he is engaged in general farming and stock raising.

Although a Democrat in politics, Doctor Hill has never taken any special interest in political matters. He is a member of Porter Lodge No. 137, Free and Accepted Masons.

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#### CHARLES CLAY ROBBINS.

Occupying a commanding position on a hill, overlooking the river valley in Sand Creek township, this county, the elegant farm house of Charles C. Robbins presents to the eye of the traveler who may be journeying that way a most attractive appearance. This eleven-room farm house, erected in 1911, is one of the best-appointed houses of its kind in Decatur county. It was built along modern plans, is enclosed on three sides with an ornamental stone wall and is piped throughout for gas and water. Mr. Robbins has an admirable water-pressure system on his farm, and his private gas well, which flows with a pressure of three hundred and twenty-five pounds, gives him, in addition to ample gas for heating and lighting purposes throughout the house and barn, fine power for the operation of grinding-machines and other machinery on the place. His beautiful grounds also are well lighted from the gas thus supplied. The water plant not only supplies the house and barn with running water, but affords ample irrigation for the grounds and garden.

Mr. Robbins' farm of one hundred and seventy acres is one of the most fertile and productive in the county, including a fine stretch of river bottom, one hundred acres in extent, and seventy acres of hill land. The bottom lands produce about eighty bushels of corn and twenty bushels of wheat to the acre. There is excellent pasture land, through which a pretty, never-failing stream flows, and his meadows produce as much as two tons of hay to the acre. A copiously-flowing well, driven to a depth of one hun-

dred and fifteen feet, supplies water to the uplands. The barn, a commodious structure, sixty by one hundred feet, is equipped with cement floors for the stalls and has all the modern appliances for the most expeditious operation of a well-conducted farm. The carriage house, fifty by fifty feet, also has cement floor, as have the ample corn cribs and granaries, while the cement watering troughs are well shaded, a pleasant sidelight on Mr. Robbins' humane regard for his live stock.

One of the attractive features of the Robbins farm is a beautiful grove of sugar-maple trees, seventy-five or more in number, which supplies the Robbins table with a fine quality of maple syrup, besides quantities of choice maple sugar. A well-kept chicken park offers a fine range for the extensive brood of Plymouth Rock chickens which Mr. Robbins raises. There are few farms in Decatur county more carefully tended than is that of Mr. Robbins, and it is but natural that he takes a high degree of pride in his place, finding much comfort and content thereon. In addition to his general farm operations, Mr. Robbins is an extensive breeder and feeder of live stock. He formerly handled from sixty-five to seventy carloads of stock annually, but lately has reduced his operations in this direction and now handles about twenty-five car loads annually, his stock all being of high grade.

Charles C. Robbins has lived all his life on this same farm, having been born there on September 2, 1860, the son of Merritt Holmand and Jeannette (Gilchrist) Robbins, the former of whom, born on August 30, 1832, died on August 14, 1882, was the son of a pioneer settler of Decatur county, and the latter of whom, born on June 25, 1837, died on February 13, 1911, was a native of Steubenville, Ohio. Merritt H. Robbins was the son of William Robbins, who settled in this county in an early day and became one of the most influential pioneers of Sand Creek township. William Robbins was the son of William Robbins, a Virginian who served in the arm of the patriots during the War of the Revolution and located in Kentucky after the close of that war. Further interesting details regarding the genealogy of this family may be found in the biographical sketch relating to J. B. Kitchin, presented elsewhere in this volume. Jeannette Gilchrist was the daughter of Hugh Gilchrist, one of the early and influential settlers of this county.

Merritt H. Robbins and his wife were members of the Liberty Baptist church and took a large part in the good works of their community in an early day. Mr. Robbins was a Republican and was one of the leaders of

that party in his part of the county. He was not inclined to seek office, however, and several times declined to accept positions of public trust and responsibility which his neighbors sought to thrust upon him. He was an active, energetic farmer and became the owner of four hundred and eighty-four acres of fine land in Sand Creek township. At the age of fifty, Mr. Robbins was overcome by an illness which would not respond to local treatment. He was taken to Sheppard sanitarium at Columbus, Ohio, where treatment likewise proved unavailing, and there he died. His land was all sold with the exception of the tract of one hundred and seventy acres surrounding the home, and which now is occupied by his son, Charles C.

To Merritt H. and Jeannette (Gilchrist) Robbins were born six children, as follow: Alpha B., who married Caleb Wright, a well-known farmer of Clay township, this county; Laura L., who married Walter B. Planke and lives in Washington township; Charles Clay, the immediate subject of this sketch; Greeley G., of Greensburg, a rural mail carrier; William W., who died on June 1, 1914, at the home of his brother, Charles C., at the age of forty-seven years, and Erie Etna, the wife of Bird Sefton, of Washington township, this county.

On February 28, 1888, Charles Clay Robbins was united in marriage to Effie M. Styers, who was born on the old Styers homestead, near Greensburg, this county, on April 6, 1868, the daughter of William G. and Dorinda F. (Wright) Styers, the former of whom is now deceased. Further details of the genealogy of this couple may be found in the biographical sketch of William G. Styers, presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Charles C. and Effie M. (Styers) Robbins have been born six children, namely: Harry H., born on November 29, 1889; Walter W., who lives on the John W. Ferris farm, in Marion township, this county, was born on July 6, 1891, married Grace Ferris and has three children, Gerald, Roy R. and Wilma; Marie, February 1, 1898, is in high school; Corinne C., December 25, 1900, also in school; Millard M., October 30, 1902, and Lowell, July 18, 1905, who died on March 4, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Robbins are members of the Liberty Baptist church, as are all the members of their family, and long have been prominent in the affairs of that church, as well as being included among the leaders in the various good works of the community in which they live. Mr. Robbins is a Republican and takes a warm interest in political affairs, though not an office seeker or a particularly active political worker, preferring to give the full measure of his time to his farm and to his home. Harry Robbins



is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is deeply interested in the affairs of that ancient fraternal order. No family in Decatur county is held in higher repute than the Robbinses and their home is one of the most popular places of social gatherings in the part of the county in which it is situated.

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### HAMLIN ANDERSON.

Situated on a hill, the handsome farm residence of Hamlin Anderson, in Clay township, this county, commands a fine view of the country thereabout. This residence, painted an attractive yellow, with its broad veranda lending a particularly home-like air to the place, is regarded as one of the pleasantest and most hospitable farm homes in the county, and is the center of much cordial hospitality, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson being fond of their friends and their friends likewise fond of them. Corresponding with the general well-kept appearance of the house, the big bank barn, painted in slate color, and the outlying farm buildings all are in excellent condition, speaking well for Mr. Anderson's orderliness and accurate attention to detail. Though somewhat past what generally is regarded as the meridian of life, Mr. Anderson retains a youthful appearance and manner that belie the date of his birth, and takes the liveliest interest in affairs. He is an excellent conversationalist and a good companion. A keen, intelligent, enterprising man, he has made a success of his affairs, and is rated among the wealthy men of Decatur county. He has traveled widely and is well informed. For three years he lived in Los Angeles, California, and for a time was engaged in the automobile business in Indianapolis, but now confines his attention wholly to his extensive farming interests, finding Decatur county the most desirable spot on earth, his pleasant home being to him all that he desires.

Hamlin Anderson was born on the farm on which he still lives August 29, 1853, son of William and Mary (Stanley) Anderson, the former of whom was born in 1811 and died in 1891; the latter born in 1832, died in 1908. William Anderson was born of poor parents in a log cabin in the pine woods of New Jersey, and in his youth was compelled to work hard. He was one of eleven children born to his parents, four boys and seven girls. By the utmost diligence and frugality, he had saved four hundred dollars by the time he had reached his majority, at which time he started for Indiana, arriving in Decatur county in 1831, having driven through in a

one-horse wagon, the long trip having been made alone. For several years after his arrival in this county, William Anderson worked for various farmers in the Milford section, receiving eight and one-third dollars the month. He then bought eighty acres of timber land south of Milford and chopped out a home in the wilderness, later selling this and buying another eighty-acre tract, a part of the present Anderson home acres. On the hill where stands the present handsome residence, William Anderson built a log cabin and entered seriously upon the life of a farmer. He prospered, as his industry and zeal entitled him to prosper, and presently became one of the large landowners in the county, his holdings comprising no less than eight hundred acres of fine land in the Milford neighborhood. Though he could not read or write, William Anderson was a clear thinker and had a good mind. He was an able manager and an excellent financier, proving himself to be one of the most important factors in the development of the vicinity in which he made his home. At the time of his death, besides his large land holdings, he possessed fifteen thousand dollars in cash, an excellent example of what energy and enterprise may accomplish in the face of obstacles that would seem well nigh insuperable to one of a less direct mind. William Anderson also possessed the entire confidence of the whole community and was held in the highest esteem throughout that part of the county, his death being much mourned thereabout. Mr. Anderson was an earnest member of the Methodist church and his children were reared in that faith. He was a Republican and his keen, discriminating mind gave to his political opinions much weight with the managers of the party in this county.

William Anderson was twice married. By his union with Jane Fowler three children were born: John H., deceased; Mrs. Mary Parker, widow of a former well-known Adams township farmer, and William, Jr., deceased, a former prominent farmer of this county. Upon the death of his first wife, William Anderson married, secondly, Mrs. Mary (Stanley) Whiseman, widow of Warren Whiseman, and to this union two children were born, Mrs. Etta Russell, of Greensburg, this county, and Hamlin, the immediate subject of this sketch. By her first marriage the second Mrs. Anderson was the mother of one child, a daughter, Mrs. Sarah Armstrong, who lives at Kewanna, Indiana.

Hamlin Anderson was reared on the paternal farm, receiving his education in the district schools of that neighborhood. Inheriting much of his father's directness of manner and energy of both mind and body, he has made proper use of his opportunities and is looked upon as one of the leading men in the part of the county in which he resides. His father willed him

one hundred and sixty acres of the home farm, to which he gradually added until he became the possessor of five hundred and thirty acres, which he later reduced to the present compact farm of four hundred and thirty acres, one of the best and most scientifically cultivated places in that part of the county. In 1894 Mr. Anderson erected his present fine farm house, one of the best in the county. This house is of thoroughly modern construction, equipped with a fine water system and is heated and lighted with natural gas, Mr. Anderson having an inexhaustible gas well on his place. The big bank barn, fifty by seventy feet, is equipped with all proper appliances for the most economic operation of a well-managed farm plant, and is supplemented by a massive silo. The farm is admirably fenced and otherwise kept up to the top notch of efficiency.

Hamlin Anderson has been twice married. In 1874 he was united in marriage to Myra Belle Trimble, daughter of John Trimble, to which union one child was born, a daughter, Maudie, who died at the age of seven years. In August, 1883, Mr. Anderson married, secondly, Ida M. Washburn, daughter of Dr. R. R. Washburn, of Waldron, Shelby county, this state, and to this union one child was born, a son, Raymond, who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Methodist church, and are earnest workers in the congregation of that church, as well as being devoted to the general good works of the community. They are highly esteemed among their large circle of friends and are potent factors in the social life of their vicinity. Mr. Anderson is a member of Greensburg Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons, and takes an active interest in the affairs of that lodge.

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### JACOB BLACK.

A distinguished veteran of the Civil War, a prominent stockman and farmer of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, for over sixty years, Jacob Black is one of the best-known citizens of Decatur county. Of all his life work, perhaps his record as a loyal and valiant soldier in our country's greatest war will endure longest. He was an enlisted soldier in one of the first regiments organized in this state for the defense of the Union in the early months of 1861, and after serving his enlistment of thirty days, enlisted the second time in Company C, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for one hundred days, being dis-

charged September 2, 1864. Subsequently, he enlisted for the third time, in Company H, Thirteenth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served one year, being discharged September 5, 1865, at Goldsboro, North Carolina. During his long service he was engaged in many severe skirmishes and battles. At the time of the breaking out of the Civil War and at the time of his first enlistment he was scarcely seventeen years old.

Jacob Black, farmer and stockman of Sand Creek township, Decatur county, Indiana, who owns a well-improved farm of one hundred acres, was born on April 17, 1844, in Franklin county, Indiana, the son of David and Susan (Heimlich) Black, the former of whom was born on December 3, 1809, in Virginia, and the latter born on July 13, 1816. They were married on December 29, 1834, in Franklin county, where David Black's parents had settled in 1820. Nineteen years after their marriage, David and Susan Black, in 1853, came to Sand Creek township, Decatur county. Of their seven children, five are deceased. The living children are Jacob, the subject of this sketch, and John C., of Letts. The deceased children are: Andrew, who was born on November 29, 1835; Mrs. Elizabeth Smith; Nancy Thompson; Margaret Helen Eubanks, and Catherine, died young.

During the declining years of David Black's life, his son, Jacob, cared for him, and at his death, which occurred in March, 1865, came into possession of the home place. He has lived nearly all of his life on the farm he now occupies, having moved to the house in which he lives in the spring of 1854, sixty-one years ago. Mr. Black has been a horse breeder for forty years, and formerly handled great numbers of French and German coach horses. He also bred trotting horses and owned at one time "Jay Bird" and "Wilkes," two well-known horses. At the present time, however, he is breeding draft horses, Belgian and Percherons, and at the present time has six head, including three pure-bred and registered stallions. For many years he was a well-known exhibitor at county and state fairs and won many prizes on his imported stallions and mares.

It is difficult to estimate what the pioneer breeders of the state have accomplished in the way of improving the breed of horses on the farm. Horses may not be so important to the success of the farmer as they formerly were, because of the advance of farm machinery, driven by power, yet the time is far remote when farmers will not be interested in good horses and when they will not be regarded as important assets on the farm. As a pioneer breeder in Decatur county, Jacob Black has performed an invaluable service, not only to the farmers in this county, but to the farmers of this state, since he personally, during his long and useful life, has furnished a



strong incentive to the men with whom he has come in contact to breed better horses.

On September 1, 1881, Jacob Black was married to Mary A. Parker, the daughter of John J. Parker. Mrs. Black was born on December 3, 1850. Jacob and Mary A. Black are the parents of two children: Harry Cecil, who was born on November 26, 1882, and who was married on August 31, 1904, to Vella May Simmons, of Sand Creek township, and has one child, Helen Louise; and Clarence Wayne, born on March 18, 1890, who is engaged in farming on their own farm with his brother. Both young men are successful farmers and have taken up the useful work so long carried on by their worthy and honorable father.

Jacob Black is a Republican, but he has never been a candidate for office and has never aspired to office. As a result of his long and arduous labors, he has won for himself a competence in life and is now situated so that he may enjoy his declining years in comfort and happiness. Mr. Black has many friends in this section of the state.

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### MYRON C. JENKINS.

The Jenkins family was founded in America by one of the sturdy Pilgrim fathers, who came over to the rock-bound New England shore in the "Mayflower." Myron C. Jenkins, a well-known lawyer of Greensburg, Indiana, a man who has filled one of the principal offices within the gift of the people of Decatur county with credit to himself and to the people of the county who elected him, is a representative of the second generation of the family in Decatur county. His father, who had been a printer and a lawyer, settled on a farm near New Point in the early sixties. As a profession the law is not new to this generation of the Jenkins family, his father having practiced for many years in the state of Ohio.

Myron C. Jenkins, who was born on February 10, 1859, in Cincinnati, Ohio, is the son of Alfred C. and Lydia A. (Rigsbe) Jenkins. The former was of New England descent, and the son of Alfred Jenkins, a native of Massachusetts, and an early settler in Ohio, and the latter was a native of Union county, Indiana, and the daughter of William Rigsbe, a native of Chatham county, North Carolina. William Rigsbe, who was an early settler in Indiana, drove through from North Carolina to Indiana with his wife, in a one-horse wagon. An ardent member of the Quaker church, he

left the southern home on account of slavery, after having been married to a Miss Clark. After farming for some years in Union county, he removed to Decatur county, where he purchased a large tract of land. Alfred Jenkins, Sr., of Massachusetts, was married early in life to a Miss Snow.

The Jenkins family had removed from Ohio to Mt. Carmel, Franklin county, Indiana, when the father of Myron C. Jenkins was a mere child. Here Alfred C. Jenkins was reared. He became a printer by trade, having learned the trade with the Clarksons, who were the proprietors of the Brookville American at the time. Subsequently, he moved to Cincinnati, where he became a typesetter on the old *Cincinnati Gazette*. Supporting his family by setting type, he was able to attend the Cincinnati Law College, and was graduated from that institution while he was setting type on the *Gazette* and delivering papers in the evening after working all day. Removing to Decatur county, Indiana, during the early sixties, he located near New Point on a farm owned by his father-in-law, William Rigsbe, and here he built a house and barn. After living upon the farm for a number of years, he moved back to Ohio and practiced law in Hamilton county and at Harrison, where he died.

To Alfred C. and Lydia A. Jenkins were born four sons, Horace W., Myron C., and two who died in infancy.

Educated in the public schools of Ohio and Indiana, Myron C. Jenkins was graduated from the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio, and from the Cincinnati Law School with the class of 1884. In this class was Judge O'Hara and many other distinguished men. Mr. Jenkins began the practice of law in Decatur county after spending one year on the farm, and then obtained desk room in the office of Doctor Jerman at New Point. He was accustomed to remain in Greensburg during the session of court, and subsequently was appointed deputy prosecuting attorney for Rush and Decatur counties, a position which he held for two years. After the expiration of his term of office he removed to Greensburg, and except for eight years, the period between 1904 and 1912, when he was clerk of the Decatur circuit court, he has ever since been engaged in the practice at Greensburg. He enjoys a large and lucrative practice in the circuit, district, state and federal courts, and owns a splendid law library, which is kept in his office in the old First National Bank building of Greensburg.

Myron C. Jenkins was married on September 6, 1898, to Nellie Adams, a native of Decatur county, and the daughter of Roll G. Adams, the son of an early Indiana settler and a pioneer in Franklin county. Roll G. Adams was born, in Fairfield, Franklin county, and was the son of Washburn

Adams. To Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins four children, Lydia Alice, Wendell Crocker, Dorothy and Miriam G. have been born. All are living at home.

Mr. Jenkins has always been identified with the Republican party. The Jenkins family are members of the Christian church of Greensburg, and Mr. Jenkins is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Aside from the cares of his professional practice, the chief interests of Myron C. Jenkins are his home and his family. His law practice has grown from year to year, and he is today numbered among the successful attorneys of Decatur county, an honor of no mean importance.

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#### CHARLES P. MILLER.

Having spent all his life thus far on the farm on which he was born, in Adams township, this county, Charles P. Miller, one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of Decatur county, is in a position to make fitting contrasts with conditions existing thereabout at the time of his earliest recollection and the conditions now prevailing in that favored section of the county. Mr. Miller has a beautiful home, a fine old brick mansion built by his father back in 1862, which has been modernized in numerous ways to bring it up to the latter-day standards until it now is one of the best farm houses in Decatur county. Fitting accompaniment to this is his big red bank barn, fifty by one hundred by thirty-two feet to the square, with other commodious farm buildings to match. Mr. Miller is an extensive landowner in the county. At one time he was the owner of eleven hundred and seventy-eight acres, four hundred and fifty acres of which comprised the home farm; three hundred and twenty acres in Washington and Adams townships; two hundred and forty-eight acres in Clinton township and one hundred and sixty acres in Clay township. Much of this land he since has disposed of to his sons, reducing his holdings to the home farm of four hundred and fifty acres and one hundred and sixty acres in Washington township. In addition to his large general farming operations, Mr. Miller formerly was engaged in the breeding of Shorthorn cattle, but of late years has given little attention to that phase of farming, having on his farm now only about one hundred hogs, sixty head of cattle and sixteen or eighteen horses.

Charles P. Miller was born on the farm on which he still lives, in Adams township, Decatur county, Indiana, October 6, 1853, the son of Charles and Louisa (Pleak) Miller, the former of whom was born on May 9, 1814, and

died on March 15, 1888, and the latter of whom was born on January 15, 1816, and died on June 8, 1907.

Charles Miller was born in western Virginia, the son of George Miller, who brought his family to Decatur county, Indiana, in 1827. George Miller made his home in what was then the forest wilderness of Adams township, where he lived until 1857, in which year he sold out and moved to Iowa, again becoming a pioneer, and in that state he died. His wife, who was a Miss Elizabeth Swope before her marriage, bore to him sixteen children, thirteen of whom lived to maturity and married, the numerous progeny of this union making now a large family. These thirteen children were as follow: Jacob, Michael, John, Mrs. Mary Riffe, Mrs. Catherine Johnson, Mrs. Nancy Williams, Mrs. Anna Jones, George W., Mrs. Elizabeth Spraker, Charles, Mrs. Martha Spraker, Mrs. Sarah Dunn and Joseph.

Charles Miller for a time lived on a part of the Nathan Hunter farm in Washington township, but when his father moved to Iowa he sold that tract and bought the tract where his son, Charles P., now lives, and there spent the rest of his life. Charles Miller became one of Decatur county's progressive farmers, owning about five hundred and twenty acres of land at the time of his death. He was an ardent Whig and took an active interest in the early political life of the county. Upon the formation of the Republican party he became affiliated with that party and ever thereafter espoused its principles. He was an earnest Methodist and his children were reared in that faith,

On June 2, 1835, Charles Miller was united in marriage to Louisa Pleak, daughter of Narcus Baron Steuben Isaac Henry Fielden Louis and Sabina (Virt) Pleak, natives of Kentucky and pioneer settlers of Decatur county, a family which has been largely represented in the affairs of this county since the year 1821. Further interesting details of the genealogy of the Pleak family may be found in the biographical sketch relating to Strauther Van Pleak, presented elsewhere in this volume. To this union were born ten children, all of whom are now deceased save Charles P. Miller, namely: Michael, Elizabeth, Sabina, America, George, Joseph, Ira, Narcus Baron Steuben Isaac Henry Fielden Louis, Charles P., and one who died in infancy.

Charles P. Miller, being the only survivor of his father's family, succeeded to the home acres and not only kept the same up in the most admirable manner, but largely increased the original acreage, becoming one of the large landowners in this part of the state, as set out in the introductory paragraph of this narrative. As he advanced in years and his children started out to do for themselves, he gradually reduced his land holdings by disposing of tracts



to his children, until now he retains but the four hundred and fifty acres surrounding the home place and one hundred and sixty acres in Washington township, all of which is in an excellent state of cultivation.

On October 31, 1878, Charles P. Miller was united in marriage to Margaret Eudora Graham, who was born in this county on November 27, 1856, and died on February 23, 1915, daughter of Joseph and Almira (Donnell) Graham, both of whom were natives of this county. Joseph Graham was the son of Joseph Graham, a native of Kentucky, who came to Decatur county in 1823, settling in Fugit township, where he was known as one of the most prominent pioneers of that section.

To Charles P. and Margaret Eudora (Graham) Miller were born five children: Louisa Katherine, born August 10, 1879, who, on December 1, 1904, married Elbert Earl Meek and lives in Fugit township; Joseph Graham, December 19, 1880, married Wilhelmina Jacob on November 15, 1905, at Watseka, Illinois, and lives in Washington township, this county; Leonidas Melville, April 11, 1883, married Elizabeth Link on November 21, 1907, and lives in Clinton township; Margaret Eudora, June 5, 1885, married James Barton McLaughlin on February 14, 1912, and lives in Washington township, and Charles Ira, February 14, 1888, who is managing the home farm for his father.

Mr. Miller is a member of the Methodist church and an active worker in the same, being earnest in good works; a man who is held in the very highest esteem throughout the neighborhood in which he is so well known. He is a Mason, but having spent his life five miles from the lodge and being a lover of home he has not been an active member though he admires very much the teachings of the order.

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#### WILBUR BOONE WRIGHT.

Wilbur Boone Wright, a successful and well-known gas well contractor of Adams, Decatur county, Indiana, is the scion of one of the oldest families of this section. During practically all of his life he has been identified with the business life, not only of this county and state but of many other states and is quite as well known in the gas fields of Texas and Illinois as he is here in Indiana. His residence in Decatur county, however, has served to increase the admiration of his fellowmen since he has led an honorable life in every particular. It is no idle statement to say that he is indeed worthy of the confidence and respect of his fellows.

Wilbur Boone Wright was born in 1871, the son of John and Luvenia (Stark) Wright, pioneers of Clay township, the former of whom was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, in 1827 and who died at his home in Decatur county in 1899. When about twenty-one years of age, John Wright came to Decatur county from Virginia and settled in Clay township near Liberty. The Wright family is of English origin. John Wright was the son of Charles Wright, who came to this county from Virginia some time after his son, John and located here. Luvenia Stark was the daughter of Caleb and Anne (Boone) Stark, who came to Decatur county from Kentucky in 1826 and settled in Clay township. Caleb Stark was the son of Joseph Stark, who was the son of John Stark, a native of New Hampshire, who moved from that state to Virginia and later to Kentucky, settling in Henry county. Joseph Stark was a well-known Indian fighter and a member of the famous colony headed by Daniel Boone. He came from Virginia to Kentucky in 1780. The Stark family dates from the days of the last James in Scotland, when John Muirhead, a German soldier, for an act of bravery in which he saved the life of the king, was created bishop of Glasgow and his name changed by royal decree to Stark, which is the German for "strength." John Stark, who was born in 1665, was the founder of the Stark family in America, he having come to this country in 1710. His eldest son, Archibald, was the father of General Stark of Revolutionary fame. The remainder of the Stark genealogy may be found in the sketch of Caleb Stark Wright, recorded elsewhere in this volume. He is a cousin of Wilbur Boone Wright, the subject of this sketch.

Born on his father's farm in Clay township, Wilbur Boone Wright was only a small child when the family moved from Clay township to Adams township. Here he grew to manhood and lived and worked on his father's farm. He began business for himself when seventeen years old drilling gas wells under contract. He has been eminently successful in this business and has drilled wells in most of the counties of central Indiana, also in Texas and Illinois. There is no man now living in the state of Indiana, who is more familiar with this business than the subject of this sketch.

Wilbur Boone Wright was first married to Pearl Coy, of Adams, but she died a little less than two years after their marriage. About two years after her death, Mr. Wright was married, secondly, to Ada Boling, of Franklin county, Indiana. She is the sister of Albert Boling, whose sketch is contained elsewhere in this volume and which contains the genealogy of the Boling family in Decatur county and in this country. To Mr. and Mrs. Wright has been born one child, Luvenia Alice, who was born on August 5, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright have a beautiful home in Adams, where he is known as one of the solid and substantial citizens of Decatur county. He is a staunch and true Democrat and a member of the Christian church of Adams. Mr. Wright is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, including the Encampment and the Rebekahs. He is also a member of Masonic Lodge, No. 94, of Milford. A top-notch citizen, a liberal and broad-minded man, he is one of whom this county has every reason to be very proud.

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#### CHESTER HAMILTON.

With calm satisfaction Chester Hamilton, one of the oldest and best-known farmers of Decatur county, looks back over the days that have gone, contemplating with gratitude the wonders that have been accomplished in his day and generation. Born on the farm on which he still lives and where he confidently expects to pass the remainder of his days, Mr. Hamilton has witnessed the transformation of the forest wilderness into one of the most favored sections in the Central states. With genial satisfaction he reviews the labors that have accomplished this wonderful transformation and knows that all is well. At peace with the world, enjoying the trust and confidence of his neighbors and the devoted and affectionate attentions of his family and kinsfolk, he is passing the evening of his life amid comforts which in the days of his youth hardly could have been dreamed of in connection with life as it was then known in the deep woods of this county.

There are not many families in Decatur county that have so wide a connection as that of the Hamiltons or are better or more honorably known, and it is but fitting that there should be presented here something of the history of this pioneer family, a task to which the biographer applies himself with pleasure.

Chester Hamilton was born on the farm on which he still resides in Fugit township, Decatur county, Indiana, December 18, 1838, the son of Cyrus and Mary (McCoy) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in Nicholas county, Kentucky, July 14, 1800, and died at his home in this county on August 19, 1879, and the latter of whom was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, September 18, 1798, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Donnell, in this county, on September 8, 1881.

Cyrus Hamilton was the son of Robert and Mary (Eward) Hamilton, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania on June 17, 1768, and died

at his home in Kentucky on June 17, 1817, and the latter of whom was born in Virginia on May 20, 1774, and died at the home of her son, R. M. Hamilton, northeast of Greensburg, in this county, March 15, 1848. They were married on June 19, 1794 in Kentucky. Robert Hamilton emigrated from Pennsylvania to Kentucky when the latter state was admitted to the Union and recruited a company and captained it during the War of 1812, serving against the Indians. He died in 1817 and his body was buried in the old Concord churchyard in Nicholas county, Kentucky. Afterwards his remains were brought by his descendants and placed beside those of his wife in the Kingston cemetery.

Robert Hamilton was the son of William Hamilton, a Scottish Presbyterian who emigrated from the north of Ireland about 1750 and located in Pennsylvania, whence he later emigrated to Kentucky, settling on McBrides creek, then in Bourbon county, now Nicholas county, being among the earliest settlers of that section. William Hamilton married Isabella Thompson, in Pennsylvania, to which union were born seven children, namely: William, who was killed while battling with the patriots for independence during the Revolutionary War; Alexander, who settled in Clark county, Indiana; Thomas, who married Charity Welch and died near Carlisle, Kentucky, in 1803; Samuel, who married Jeannie Sweeney; Robert, who married Mary Eward, the grandparents of the immediate subject of this sketch; Eleanor, affectionately known as "Nellie," born on May 12, 1758, married John Blair and died on December 25, 1827; and Isabella, who, about 1808, married Samuel Hindman, the Hindman family later moving to Newmarket township, Highland county, Ohio, whence they moved into Illinois.

To Robert and Mary (Eward) Hamilton were born eleven children, as follow: James Eward, born on March 31, 1795, died on January 13, 1881, married Jane McCoy, born on November 18, 1796, died on February 8, 1851, upon whose death he married, secondly, Rosannah McCoy, born on November 15, 1808, died on July 20, 1891; Fidelia, September 18, 1796, died on July 16, 1860, married Elijah Mitchell; Thomas, August 25, 1798; died on June 16, 1880, married Julia Ann Donnell; Cyrus, who married Mary McCoy, parents of the subject of this sketch; Spicey Glover, October 12, 1802, died on December 22, 1838, married John Thomson; Eliza, November 11, 1804, died on December 26, 1880; Ellen E., September 12, 1806, died on September 26, 1832, married Barton W. S. McCoy; Sarah, April 14, 1809, died on January 11, 1892, married Thomas Donnell; Robert Marshall, November 17, 1811, died on August 6, 1901, married Mary Morgan; Mary Jane, November 15, 1814, died on December 23, 1891, married Jackson Lowe; Minerva, Janu-



ary 2, 1817, died on November 25, 1903, was twice married, her first husband having been Peter Bartholomew and her second husband John C. Donnell.

Upon his marriage to Mary McCoy in the year 1822, Cyrus Hamilton came at once to Decatur county, the newly-wedded couple regarding the trip thither as their wedding tour. Cyrus's brother, James E., with his family, accompanied them. Cyrus with another brother, Thomas, had jointly filed entries for a half section of land in Fugit township in 1821. The homestead claims were filed in the land office at Brookville and the warrants bear the signature of James Monroe, then President of the United States. Cyrus Hamilton and his wife quickly were recognized as among the leaders in the pioneer settlement. They were great temperance advocates and anti-slavery protagonists and were influential and useful members of that earnest band which so successfully operated the famous "underground railway" here-about during the troublesome days preceding the outbreak of the Civil War. They were members of the Sand Creek, or Kingston Presbyterian church, with which they became affiliated on September 4, 1824, and Mr. Hamilton and his brother, James E., made the shingles which were used to cover the house of the first minister of that congregation. Mrs. Hamilton, lovingly known throughout that part of the county as "Aunt Polly," was a daughter of Alexander McCoy and was a very bright woman. She and her husband were witty, hospitable and entertaining and were great favorites throughout that whole section. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1872 and the occasion was made one of general merrymaking among their hosts of friends who gathered from far and near to celebrate with them the happy day.

To Cyrus and Mary (McCoy) Hamilton were born six children, namely: William McCoy, born on November 26, 1822, died on February 25, 1905, married Euphemia Donnell; Melissa, February 26, 1825, died on June 17, 1880, married the Rev. B. M. Nyce, a onetime well-known pastor of the Presbyterian church at Kingston, this county, also an educator of ability; Orlando, January 1, 1827, died on May 5, 1914, on his farm two miles north of Kingston; Cordelia, August 13, 1832, widow of Lowrey Donnell, resides with her son, Cyrus Donnell, on a farm one and one-half miles south of Clarksburg, this county; Chester, the subject of this sketch; and Everett, October 16, 1841, who resides in Greensburg. William, above named, was the first manufacturer of drain tile in Decatur county.

Chester Hamilton acquired a good common-school education in his native township, later attending Hartsville College, and became a very successful farmer. He began farming on a tract of eighty acres which was

given him by his father, to which he has added, with the assistance of his wife, until he now owns a farm of four hundred acres of as good land as there is in Decatur county. Though general farming is his chief pursuit he is quite a stock raiser and annually ships from one hundred and fifty to two hundred hogs and as much as three carloads of cattle. He sells no corn off his place, finding it much more profitable to feed the same. He always has continued to live on the home place and the fine old home which he built in 1879 has been remodeled into one of the most comfortable and modern farm homes in the county and is the center of hospitality for that whole region.

On May 22, 1866, Chester Hamilton was united in marriage to Mary Elizabeth Mitchell, who was born on June 26, 1842, southeast of the town of Rushville, in Rush county, this state, the daughter of Thomas V. and Amanda (Gregg) Mitchell, natives of Kentucky, who emigrated to Rush county in 1821. Amanda Gregg was the daughter of Judge John Gregg, a onetime well-known associate judge in Rush county. To this union were born four children, Thomas M., George Cyrus, Edith and Amanda. Thomas M. Hamilton, who was born on November 2, 1867, attended school at Oberlin College, now resides one-half mile east of Kingston, in this county. He married Catherine Lowe, to which union were born three children, Earl, born on January 29, 1890; Elizabeth, May 12, 1893; and Isabel, September 12, 1895. Earl married Fannie Gregg on November 4, 1914, and is farming in Fugit township. Elizabeth married Inscoe R. Bailey on May 29, 1914. Isabel is a successful teacher in the public schools of Kingston. George Cyrus Hamilton, who was born on August 4, 1869, lives on the adjoining farm, near his father's place. He married Edith Aldrich and has one child, a daughter, Lillian, born on May 28, 1899. Edith Hamilton was educated at Oxford College for Women, Oxford, Ohio; has given much study to the subject of genealogy and is working on a very extensive and quite valuable history of the Hamilton family. She lives at home with her parents, as does her sister, Amanda Hamilton. Both are interested in club work and everything that makes for the upbuilding of their community.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are members of the Presbyterian church at Kingston, their children also being members of the same congregation. Mr. Hamilton is a Republican. His first vote for President was cast for Abraham Lincoln and he ever since has stood steadfast to the principles of the party. He and his wife are earnest, kindly people who for years have been interested in all the good works of the community in which they live and are held in the highest regard by all. Progressive in thought and cultured in manner, they have exerted a fine influence in that part of the county and enjoy the esteem of all who know them.

## CLARENCE C. DEUPREE.

In the considerable Decatur county colony at Indianapolis, the state's capital city, no one is more popular than Clarence C. Deupree, the young cashier of the Marion County State Bank of Indianapolis. Elsewhere in this volume there are presented biographical sketches of Mr. Deupree's father and of his elder brother, Everett L. Deupree, both now living at Indianapolis, to which the reader is respectfully referred for details regarding the genealogy of this interesting family and the history of the beginnings of the family in this section of Indiana. Suffice it to say, in this connection, that the Deupree family is of stanch Huguenot descent, the first member of the family to come to America having been Grancie Joseph Deupree, who came to this country to escape religious persecution in France, in which country his fine estates had been confiscated and he compelled to flee for his life. The first of the Deuprees to come to Indiana was Thomas Deupree, who came from Kentucky in 1821 and entered a Government tract in Johnson county, this state, near the town of Edinburg, and who lost his life by drowning while crossing the Muscatatuck river while returning from Kentucky, whither he had gone to settle up his affairs after locating his family on the homestead in this state. Abraham, his son, succeeded him and the latter's son, William N., still is living in Johnson county at the age of eighty-two years. William N. Deupree married Martha A. Matthis, daughter of Benjamin and Nancy (Hibbs) Matthis, Kentuckians and early settlers in Johnson county. Their son, Thomas M., married Laura B. Prichard, daughter of John M. and Louisa (Robinson) Prichard, both natives of Johnson county and prominent among the early residents in that section, the former of whom is still living at the age of eighty-one years. His wife, who was born on February 1, 1832, died in 1914.

To Thomas M. and Laura B. (Prichard) Deupree were born seven children, six of whom are living, of whom Clarence C. is the second son and fourth child. Everett L., a well-known lawyer and financier of Indianapolis, being the eldest. In the biographical sketch relating to Thomas M. Deupree, presented elsewhere in this volume, separate mention is made of each of these children. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Deupree left their home in Westport, this county, some years ago, removing to Indianapolis, where they since have made their home, living in pleasant retirement in the capital city.

Clarence C. Deupree was born at Westport, this county, on January 8, 1888, and there he received his elementary education. At the age of sixteen

he went to Edinburg, this state, to secure the advantage of the schools at that place and was graduated from the Edinburg high school with the class of 1906. He then went to Indianapolis and there he followed various pursuits until the year 1912, in which year the Marion County State Bank of Indianapolis was organized. Since May 1 of that year Mr. Deupree has been connected with that sound financial institution. He began as assistant cashier and in May, 1914, was elected cashier, which position he now occupies.

On October 20, 1910, Clarence C. Deupree was united in marriage to Stella Edith Gaston, of Decatur county, Indiana, daughter of J. Minor and Lottie (Beesley) Gaston, former prominent residents of this county, further information regarding which family the reader may obtain by referring to the biographical sketch relating to J. Minor Gaston, the well-known banker of Indianapolis, on another page of this volume. To the union of Clarence C. and Stella Edith (Gaston) Deupree one child has been born, a son, Robert Gaston, born on January 12, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Deupree are earnest Christian workers, the former being a member of the Christian church of Westport, this county, and the latter a member of the First Presbyterian church at Indianapolis. Both are very popular in a large circle of acquaintances and are held in the highest esteem by their many friends. Mr. Deupree's ability in financial matters is well recognized by bankers in Indianapolis and he is regarded as among the rising young financiers of the capital city, where he enjoys in a high degree the confidence of all men of affairs with whom his important duties bring him in contact.

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#### THOMAS M. DEUPREE.

Scattered far and wide over this fair country are loyal sons and daughters of Decatur county who, for one reason or another, have been lured away from this favored section of the state and are making their homes elsewhere. The exigencies of business life or the call of the professions have induced some of these absent ones to leave this county, seeking fairer fortunes in other places; the desire for a closer family unity has been the impelling motive in other cases. Whatever the cause of such departure, however, there is full assurance that all former Decatur county people are loyal and true to their former place of residence and that their hearts are here, even though other scenes and other places claim their personal activities. Among the numerous families that once had a seat in this county none is better remembered



or is held in higher esteem hereabout than the Deupree family, the head of which, a few years ago moved to Indianapolis; retiring after a life of useful activity in this county, to the state capital, where his sons have taken prominent places in the financial and professional life of that city. The design of a work of this character being to hold in remembrance for future generations something of the lives and the labors of those men and women who wrought well in Decatur county, contributing of their best to the upbuilding of this thriving commonwealth, it is fitting that those who, though now living elsewhere, have done their parts toward making this county a better place in which to live should have a place in these memoirs. The biographer therefore with pleasure calls the attention of the reader, at this point, to a brief and modest review of the life of Thomas M. Deupree, a former well-known and prominent citizen of the town of Westport, this county.

Thomas M. Deupree was born near the town of Edinburg, Johnson county, Indiana, on August 12, 1857, son of William N. and Martha A. (Matthis) Deupree, the former of whom was born in Shelby county, Indiana, on June 28, 1833, and is now living on a farm near Edinburg, Johnson county, at the age of eighty-two years, and the latter of whom was born in Johnson county, same state, daughter of Benjamin and Nancy (Hibbs) Matthis, natives of Kentucky and early settlers in central Indiana.

William N. Deupree is a son of Abraham C. and Hannah B. (Carter) Deupree, the former of whom was born in Kentucky in the year 1811, the son of Thomas and Martha (Hatchett) Deupree, and who moved to Shelby county, Indiana, with his parents in childhood and became one of the most prominent and influential pioneer residents of that county, his fine personal influence undoubtedly having been a strong factor in the development of proper social and civic conditions thereabout. After locating his family in Shelby county, the elder Thomas Deupree went back to Kentucky to settle his affairs there and on returning to Indiana on horseback was drowned in the Muscatatuck river. About seven generations back the first of the Deuprees to come to America was Grancie Joseph Deupree, a Huguenot, who was driven out of France by religious persecution and his fine estates in that country confiscated. He founded in this country a family which now is widely scattered, its various representatives in whatever communities they are found performing well and honorably those things which their hands find to do. The Hatchett family also is of French origin, while the Carters are of English origin, the first of the family in this country having been a Quaker who came to America with the party that accompanied William Penn to this side. On the land entered by his grandfather, near Edinburg, this state,

William N. Deupree grew to manhood, married and reared his family there and has been a life-long farmer, still making his home on the old homestead, at an advanced age of eighty-two, one of the most honored and respected residents of that part of the state; a man who possesses a marvelous fund of reminiscence regarding early conditions in south central Indiana. In all his relations in life William N. Deupree has been true to his fellowmen and no one thereabout is held in higher esteem than he.

Thomas M. Deupree was reared on the paternal farm near Edinburg, in Johnson county, attending the local schools and growing up to a full acquaintance with the life of the farm. He was united in marriage to Laura B. Prichard, who was born in the same neighborhood, daughter of John M. and Louisa (Robinson) Prichard, both natives of Johnson county and prominent pioneers of that section. John M. Prichard was born on March 1, 1834, and is still living. His wife, who was born on February 1, 1832, died in 1914.

In January, 1885, Thomas M. Deupree left his home in Johnson county and came to Decatur county, locating at Westport, where he built the first livery stable ever operated in that village. He continued the livery business for two years, at the end of which time he engaged in farming. He was not long thus engaged, however, for he presently resumed business in Westport, opening a harness store, in which business he was engaged quite successfully for a period of fourteen years, coming to be one of the most substantial and influential citizens of that part of the county. He and Mrs. Deupree took an active part in the religious and social life of the town and were held in the very highest regard there. Mr. Deupree was chairman of the building committee that built the Christian church at Westport, Indiana. When, in the middle of June, 1913, they moved to Indianapolis, where four of their children are making their homes, there was much regret expressed throughout the entire neighborhood, for they had been good neighbors and good friends of all.

To Thomas M. and Laura B. (Prichard) Deupree seven children have been born, namely: Everett L., a well-known Indianapolis lawyer, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, married Edith A. Wheeler, daughter of Hillis A. and Elizabeth (Linton) Wheeler; Maude married George Burk, of Westport, this county, and has one child, a daughter, Lillian; Jessie married Clarence Baker, a telegraph operator at North Vernon, Indiana, and has two children, both sons, Gwynn and Max; Clarence C., cashier of the Marion County State Bank of Indianapolis, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, married

Stella Edith Gaston, daughter of J. Minor and Lottie (Beesley) Gaston, of this county, and has one child, a son, Robert Gaston; William J., of Indianapolis, manager of the Seminole hotel, married Leona Pleak, of this county, and has one child, a son, Jack; Bessie married Chester L. Robinson, also lives at Indianapolis; and Jamie, who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Deupree are members of the North Park Christian church at Indianapolis and are active in the good works of that congregation. Though having retired from the scenes which once they knew so well in this county, they have not forgotten their old friends and the latch string of their pleasant home at 3543 Graceland avenue, Indianapolis, ever hangs out for their former neighbors in the Westport vicinity. Mr. Deupree is a member of the Knights of Pythias, retaining his membership in Westport Lodge No. 317, of which he is one of the charter members, the lodge having been constituted in 1891. Though practically retired from business cares, Mr. Deupree retains an active interest in general affairs and is ever an earnest exponent of the principles of good government.

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#### RICHARD A. WILLIAMS.

In a work of the character contemplated in the publication of this history of Decatur county it would be highly improper to omit fitting reference to the numerous band of faithful sons and daughters of Decatur county who have gone out into other fields of activity seeking their fortunes away from the scenes of their youth. Naturally enough a large number of these errant children of old Decatur have gravitated to the state capital, carrying with them the sterling principles of manhood and womanhood inculcated in their early schooling, and have entered into the larger life of the city in such a way as to reflect great credit upon their youthful admonitions. Among this considerable number of former residents of Decatur county now living at Indianapolis few are better known in the latter city or are more kindly remembered in this county than is the gentleman whose name the reader notes above.

Richard A. Williams, an honored product of the Greensburg schools, who is now a prominent figure in the musical and cultured life of the state capital, was born at Richmond, Indiana, on February 24, 1870, the son of Edgar S. and Druet (Worthin) Williams, the former of whom also was born in Richmond.

Edgar S. Williams received his education in Richmond, the city of his birth, and upon reaching manhood's estate entered into the general merchandise business; later he moved to this county, locating at Greensburg, where he engaged in the same form of business. He married Druet Worthin, who was born in Greensburg. Druet Worthin received her elementary education in the Greensburg schools, supplementing the same by a course in the Western Female Seminary at Oxford, Ohio, from which admirable old institution she was graduated.

Richard A. Williams was educated in the schools of Greensburg and was graduated from the high school in that city. He then entered upon a three-years' course at Purdue University, and in 1893 entered into partnership with James DeArmond in the piano business in Greensburg, a business connection which continued with much success for a period of ten years. This long connection with the piano business gave him an acquaintance with the same which caused his services to be sought elsewhere and in 1903 he went to Indianapolis, where he ever since has been connected with the sales force of the Starr Piano Company, at present occupying the important position of city sales manager for that company.

Mr. Williams, though living at Indianapolis, is still devoted to the interests of his old home in this county. He retains his membership in the Presbyterian church at Greensburg and in the Odd Fellows lodge in the same city, being much interested in the affairs of both. Mr. Williams not only is a skilled pianist, but is well known in Indianapolis as one of the most earnest promoters of the musical interest of the city, and there are few large musical functions there that are not in some way helpfully influenced by his intelligent and skillful direction.

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#### STRAUTHER VAN PLEAK.

The debt which the present generation owes to those hardy pioneers who opened up this favored section and made it a fit habitation and place of abode, of course, never can be paid. Indeed, it is difficult even to estimate the value of the extraordinary service which those early settlers rendered; an ungrudging, unselfish and faithful service rendered in the sweat of their faces—often, indeed, in their very life's blood. Though impossible ever to reward that service, the present generation at least may offer some slight requital, some fitting tribute, by preserving the utmost devotion to the mem-



ories of those who "blazed the ways." "Rely upon it," said William E. Gladstone, "that the man who does not worthily estimate his own dead forefathers will himself do very little to add credit to or do honor to his country." Among the pioneer families of Decatur county there is one which dates back to the very beginning of a social order hereabout, a family to which unstinted credit is due and to which the biographer takes pleasure in here calling to the attention of the reader.

The Pleak family in Decatur county had its origin in this country through Johann Pleak, a Hollander who emigrated to America in the middle of the eighteenth century and settled in Kentucky in the neighborhood of Castletons Fort, now Mt. Sterling, where he married 'a Miss Wade, a sister of General Wade, of Revolutionary fame, to which union was born Fielden Blickenstorfer. In 1818 Fielden married Sabina Virt, who was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, of Dutch descent, who was six months old when her parents emigrated to Bryants Station, in Kentucky, and was a member of that station at the time of her marriage. Following this marriage Fielden Pleak and his bride moved across the Ohio river and settled at Crossplains, in Jefferson county, this state. They remained there, however, but a short time, on March 11, 1822, coming to this county, where they entered a farm in Washington township, which farm still is in the possession of the Pleak family.

Johann Pleak, whose mother was a Blickenstorfer, was born in Holland on April 15, 1726. In the year 1750 Johann, with two brothers and a sister, emigrated to America, landing at Jamestown. Joseph, one of the brothers, went to North Carolina and never was heard of again. The sister married a Pennsylvanian of the name of Throgmorton and reared a considerable family. Johann presently pushed along into the wilds of the West and settled in Kentucky, where he bought a piece of land. His abilities as a scout frequently brought him into scouting service and he became one of the best-known of the pioneers of the region about Castletons Fort. One day while scouting for a party of salt makers, he followed an Indian trail to a salt "lick," discovering encamped about the "lick" a band of Indians. These aboriginals maintained a loose guard and were lolling about the camp in lazy comfort. Johann was alone, and of course hardly could expect to be a match for the entire camp, but he then and there demonstrated the white man's superiority over the red man. Pulling off his high-top Dutch hat, he yelled in his native tongue: "What ye doin' here, ye lazy rascals!" which so affrighted the Indians that they broke camp instanter and ran pellmell, disappearing in the depths of the forest fastness, leaving their war accoutre-

ments behind. These Johann very carefully gathered up, and taking them back to the fort sold them, the money realized from the sale of this booty being applied to the purchase of the bit of land above referred to. It was shortly after this incident that his marriage to Miss Wade, a sister of General Wade, took place. To this union there were born three sons and three daughters. One of these sons was slain by the Indians. The other two were Dawson and Fielden.

Fielden Pleak married Sabina Virt and in 1822 came to this county, as set out above, locating on a tract of eighty acres in what is now Washington township, which original tract still is in the possession of the Pleak family. The first shelter which he set up in this forest wilderness for his wife and babies was a brush lean-to, covered with branches of trees and blankets, which served as a home until a log cabin presently was erected. Not long after making good his location here, Fielden returned to Kentucky for the purpose of bringing his furniture to the new home. The trip was long and arduous. When he finally rejoined his family he found that during his absence his wife had sawed the logs and had erected the first four courses of a log cabin. This structure speedily was completed and in this log cabin a large family was reared. Fielden Blickenstorfer Pleak was born on December 24, 1792, and died on December 29, 1835, his widow surviving until December 24, 1875. They were married on June 9, 1814, and to this union there were born thirteen children, namely: Louisa, who married Charles Miller; Llewellyn, Joseph Dawson, John Isaac, George G. W. B., Catherine, Joseph D., Eletvan, America, Susannah, Norcus Baron Steuben, Isaac Henry Fielden and Louis, the latter of whom was the father of the immediate subject of this sketch.

Louis Pleak was born on June 27, 1832, and spent his entire life on the old homestead, to which he added adjoining tracts until he had a farm of four hundred acres. He married Elizabeth Woolverton, who was born on February 17, 1853, and erected a large brick house across the road from the old parental home, in which both he and his wife spent the remainder of their days, his death occurring on December 24, 1875, her death occurring on July 4, 1871. Mr. and Mrs. Pleak were members of the Christian church and were persons of large influence in their community, being among the leaders in that part of the county. Mr. Pleak was a Republican and ever took a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county, his excellent judgment often proving of value in the deliberations of the party managers. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and took a deep interest in the affairs of that historic order.

To Louis and Elizabeth (Woolverton) Pleak were born seven children, as follow: Walter B., born on March 23, 1854, is now residing on a part of the old homestead farm; Strauther Van, the immediate subject of this sketch; Dawson Steuben, October 14, 1857, now lives in Oakland, Iowa; John Charles, September 8, 1859, now living at Red Oak, Iowa; George W., September 14, 1861, died on November 29, 1862; Louisa, November 23, 1863, married Elmer Upjohn, and lives at Lebanon, Indiana; and Misseline, April 15, 1867, who lives at Greeley, Colorado.

Strauther Van Pleak was born on the old Pleak homestead in Washington township, Decatur county, Indiana, September 7, 1856, and lived there until the year 1892, in which year he retired from the farm and moved into the city of Greensburg, where he has a very pleasant and comfortable home at 525 Broadway. He received his youthful education in "Beech-foot Hall" school, which then stood on a corner of the Pleak farm, and early in life entered upon the responsible duties of a farmer's life. He succeeded his father on the home place, where he remained until his retirement from the farm, as noted above. He has been quite successful in his farming operations and owns, in addition to his farm of two hundred and seventeen acres in Washington township, in this county, a farm of two hundred and twenty acres in Jasper county, Indiana, giving close personal direction to the management of these farms from his home in Greensburg.

On October 19, 1880, Strauther Van Pleak was united in marriage to Anna M. Meek, daughter of John and Sarah Jane (Montgomery) Meek, of a prominent family of this county. For genealogies of the Meek and the Montgomery families the reader is referred to sketches relating to those two well-known families presented elsewhere in this volume. To the union of Strauther Van Pleak and Anna M. Meek one child was born, a daughter, Floy, who married Harry Butterson, of Tucson, Arizona, to which union there has been born one son, Van Pleak, now about three years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Pleak are members of the Presbyterian church of Greensburg, in the various good works of which they are actively interested. Mr. Pleak is a Republican and though taking a proper interest in political affairs, never has been included in the office-seeking class, preferring to devote his time and attention to his extensive personal affairs rather than to the public service. He is an active and public-spirited citizen, however, and does his part in promoting all movements having as their object the advancement of the common weal. He is a member of the Elks lodge at Greensburg and takes his part in the general affairs of that order. He and Mrs. Pleak are held in the highest regard in their large circle of acquaintances and are popular with all.

## LUTHER D. HAMILTON.

In the biography relating to the venerable Chester Hamilton, of Fugit township, this county, presented elsewhere in this volume, there is a comprehensive presentation of the genealogy of the well-known Hamilton family of this county. It, therefore, will be unnecessary, in presenting the biography of the gentleman whose name is noted above, to enter largely into the history of that interesting family before its active entrance into affairs of this county. The reader is respectfully referred to the genealogy above mentioned for details regarding the lineage of the subject of this sketch, one of the best-known and most prosperous farmers of Decatur county, who is living in the fine home which his father built in 1865 and where he has made his home for the past fifty years, on the south edge of the town of Clarksburg. The large brick residence which is the seat of the home farm sets well back in a fine grove and is one of the most comfortable and attractive homes in the county, the center of much genial hospitality.

Luther D. Hamilton was born on the old home farm, where he still lives, on March 9, 1860, the son of William M. and Euphemia (Donnell) Hamilton, both members of old and prominent families in this county, the former of whom was born on November 26, 1822, and died on February 25, 1905, and the latter of whom died on December 6, 1896.

William M. Hamilton was the son of Cyrus and Mary (McCoy) Hamilton, natives of Kentucky, the former of whom was the son of Robert, who was the son of Col. William Hamilton, who served in the War of 1812. William M. Hamilton was reared on the paternal farm in the Kingston neighborhood, in this county, and on January 27, 1854, married Euphemia Donnell, moving immediately thereafter onto the farm on which his son, Luther D., now lives. At that time there was an old pioneer dwelling house on this farm, which a few years later was supplanted by the fine large brick residence which Mr. Hamilton erected and which, with remodeling to suit modern conditions, still does fine service as a place of abode. Mrs. Hamilton inherited about six hundred acres of land from her father and gradually this was increased by Mr. Hamilton until he became possessed of about three thousand acres. One of Mr. Hamilton's specialties was the buying of timber tracts, clearing the same for the valuable timber thereon. He also was an extensive breeder of mules, large numbers of which he raised for the market and also dealt extensively in cattle and hogs. In creating a market for his mules he made several trips to Iowa, before the days of the railway, and on one occasion swam the Wabash river, a large



herd of mules swimming along behind him, following an old gray lead mare. William M. Hamilton was one of the most substantial citizens in Decatur county. He was an earnest Republican and took an active part in the political affairs of the county. He was a fiery Abolitionist and was prominently connected with the affairs of the "underground railroad," by which agency many slaves found their way to freedom in ante-bellum days. His home was on the line of this historic "railroad" and many runaway slaves found welcome shelter there on their way to Canada. On one occasion an irate slave-owner obtained a judgment for three thousand dollars against Mr. Hamilton for the latter's participation in the escape of a slave and Mr. Hamilton's father-in-law and willing friends gladly paid the judgment. Mrs. Hamilton was as ardent a friend of the fugitive slaves as was her husband, and many a harried black man and woman had cause for gratitude by reason of her sympathetic interest in their efforts to secure freedom. Mrs. Euphemia Hamilton was the daughter of Luther A. Donnell, one of the wealthiest landowners of his day in this county. He was the son of Thomas Donnell, the son of Samuel Donnell, the founder of the family in Decatur county. The reader is referred to a biographical sketch of the Donnells, presented elsewhere in this volume, for further information relating to this interesting family and the important part it played in the early history of Decatur county.

To William M. and Euphemia (Donnell) Hamilton were born five children, namely: Enrie Jane, born on November 8, 1854, who, on September 11, 1883, married Edwin S. Fee, and resides in the town of Clarksburg, in this county; Grace Greenwood, November 20, 1859, died on January 16, 1898; Luther D., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Myrta Gay, February 18, 1865, married John M. Berry on December 26, 1893, and died in Chicago on March 19, 1897; and Mary Blanch, March 9, 1863, who, in 1900, married George Lyons and lives at Greensburg.

Luther D. Hamilton received his elementary education in the schools at Clarksburg, supplementing the same with a course at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1884. Following his graduation Mr. Hamilton entered upon the serious business of farming, taking up his location on the old home farm, where he ever since has resided and where he has prospered largely. Mr. Hamilton's farm of twelve hundred acres is the largest estate in Decatur county under one management. He operates the great farm as a whole and all grain that is raised is fed on the farm, Mr. Hamilton finding it much more profitable to put his grain into cattle and hogs than to sell it. He feeds and

sells more than one hundred head of cattle and two carloads of mules annually, besides large numbers of hogs. Included in this fine estate is the land which was pre-empted by William Fugit, after whom the township received its name.

On February 22, 1899, Luther D. Hamilton was united in marriage to Carrie Emmert, who was born at Greensburg, this county, on October 18, 1862, the daughter of Jacob Emmert, a well-known retired miller and farmer, who moved from Greensburg to Clarksburg, this county, in October, 1868.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are active working members of the Presbyterian church at Clarksburg and for many years have been persons of large influence in that part of the county, ever displaying their interest in all movements looking to the advancement of better conditions thereabout. Mr. Hamilton is a Republican and has taken a prominent part in local political affairs, his sound judgment and wide experience giving to his counsels much weight. He has served on the township advisory board and in every relation of life has proved his worth as a good citizen, he and his wife being held in the highest esteem throughout the whole countryside.

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#### JOHN T. MEEK.

The Meek family was established in Decatur county, Indiana, by Josiah Meek, who came with his family from Kentucky to this state about 1827 and who shortly after coming to Decatur county purchased land in Fugit township, and became one of the enterprising and successful citizens of the county. He and his wife, Jemima Meek, had the misfortune shortly after coming to Decatur county to lose four members of the family from fever, due, perhaps, to the unhealthful condition brought about by the vast swamps common in this county during the first half of the last century. For nearly a hundred years the Meek family have been prominent in Decatur county, not only as large landowners and enterprising farmers, but as highly honored and respected citizens of this great county, each successive generation having contributed its full share to the material growth and civic development of the community. Few families have had a larger part in the agricultural development of Decatur county than the Meek family, and few families have furnished better citizens to this political subdivision of the great Hoosier state.

John T. Meek, a well-known capitalist of Greensburg, Indiana, was

born February 13, 1848, in Clinton township, on a farm, and who is the son of John and Sarah Jane (Montgomery) Meek, is a representative of the third generation in Decatur county, Indiana. John Meek, a native of Kentucky, who was born in 1826, and who passed away in 1909, at the age of eighty-two years, came to Decatur county, Indiana, with his father, Josiah Meek, about 1827. After having been educated in the rural schools of Decatur county, where he had no better advantages than the average youth of his day and generation, and after growing to maturity on his father's farm, he was married to Sarah Jane Montgomery, a native of Decatur county, who was born in 1827, and who passed away in 1892. To them were born ten children, one of whom, the youngest, Lola Frances, is now deceased. The children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: Robert S., who lives in Greensburg; Margaret, who married J. B. Robison, lives in Greensburg; John T. is the subject of this review; Martha Louise married Capt. John A. Meek, of Kansas; Adam is living retired in Greensburg; Jethro C. also lives in Greensburg; Mary is the wife of J. C. Brown, of Rushville; Theresa Lavinia is the widow of Robert Innis, deceased; Mrs. Anna Pleak lives in Greensburg.

John T. Meek has been one of the most successful farmers in the history of Decatur county. Educated in the district schools of the county, he began farming for himself at the age of twenty-three years. Two years later, at the age of twenty-five, and after his marriage, he moved to a farm of eighty acres located in Clinton township, and five years later, in 1878, removed to Rush county, Indiana, where he purchased a farm of three hundred and twenty acres. The Rush county farm, however, was not purchased until after the disposal of the farm in Decatur county. Later, during his thirty years' residence in Rush county, he purchased altogether twelve hundred acres of land in Anderson township, acquiring a considerable portion of the land during the agricultural, commercial and industrial panic of the second Cleveland administration, when it was possible to buy land at thirty-five dollars an acre which now sells for four and five times that amount. In 1908, Mr. Meek, after having resided in Rush county, Indiana, for thirty years, moved back to a farm in Fugit township, Decatur county, and in 1910 he moved to Greensburg. Altogether he owned some two thousand acres of land in Indiana, a plantation in Louisiana in partnership with John E. Osborn, consisting of five thousand acres, and located across the river from Natchez, Mississippi, and four hundred and eighty acres individually near Tallulah, Louisiana. Messrs. Meek and Osborn took charge of the Louisiana plantation, which is located in Concordia Parish, in 1911. They own a large saw-mill and are well equipped for lumbering. Also they

have extensive holdings in live stock, and one of their principal revenues from this plantation is the sale of stock raised on the farm. Moreover, Mr. Meek is a part owner in a cooperage company at Helena, Arkansas, and another cooperage company at McGehee, Arkansas. Both of these concerns are in a most prosperous condition, due to the natural advantages for acquiring timber and to the able and skillful management of the owners and proprietors. In addition to his many other interests, Mr. Meek also owns a fine residence property in Indianapolis. This property is a part of the present Horton addition to the city of Indianapolis.

In 1873, when John T. Meek was twenty-five years old, he was married to Florence E. Bonner, of Fugit township, the daughter of James Bonner, a representative of one of the oldest families in this section of Indiana. Mrs. Meek, who was born in 1854, has been the mother of four children, Mrs. Lura Helen McCoy, of Washington township; Mrs. Mildred Davis, of Rush county; Elbert E., a well-known farmer of Fugit township, and Flora E., who lives at home.

John T. Meek is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Meek and the family are leading members of the Presbyterian church of Greensburg, and are among the largest contributors to the support of this church.

Although it may be said quite truthfully that John T. Meek has enjoyed exceptional advantages and was given a good start in life, nevertheless he has done what a comparatively large percentage of the sons of the "second generation" failed to do. He has used the opportunities which fell in his way, and has greatly increased the property which came to him by gift or inheritance. Moreover, he has lived the life of a good citizen of this state. He is charitable to a fault, generous with the poor, broad-minded and liberal in all his views—a man eminently worthy to bear the name of the distinguished family to which he belongs.

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#### CHARLES McHARGH NESBITT.

Native sons of Decatur county are found in responsible positions of trust and authority in many of the chief cities of the country. One almost is inclined to express the belief that there is something in the atmosphere hereabout that has a tendency to make men and women of fine caliber, dependable in all the relations of life; firm characters, self-reliant and enterprising. The attention of the reader is here called to a brief biography of one of these Decatur county men whose special talents were so well used



that he was called upon to go higher. Beginning his telephone service in the town of Greensburg in 1898, Charles M. Nesbitt has mastered the details of telephone management so thoroughly that now he occupies one of the most responsible positions in the gift of the telephone service in the middle states, being general superintendent of the department of commercial telephones of the Central Union Telephone Company for the state of Indiana.

Charles McHargh Nesbitt was born in the city of Greensburg, Decatur county, Indiana, on April 20, 1877, the son of John James and Mary (McHargh) Nesbitt, the former of whom was the son of John and Martha Nesbitt, early settlers of this county, who came here during the early youth of John James Nesbitt, locating on a farm near Spring Hill. On this farm John James Nesbitt grew to manhood, acquiring a wide acquaintance throughout the county. He entered the horse business in Greensburg, becoming a large buyer and shipper of horses, continuing in this business all the rest of his life, his death occurring in December, 1911.

John James Nesbitt's name is inscribed on the great monument erected to the memory of Wilder's Brigade at Chattanooga, Tennessee, in the following highly laudatory terms: "John J. Nesbitt, one of the bravest men in Wilder's Brigade." And the honor of being thus held up to the admiration of the ages is well deserved. John J. Nesbitt served through the Civil War as a member of Wilder's famous brigade, being attached to General Wilder's staff. At one time, by an act of special bravery, he saved the brigade from probably annihilation by riding through the line of the opposing army to carry essential dispatches to his general, and to perpetuate the memory of this heroic deed his name was given a special place on the imposing battle monument.

John J. Nesbitt was united in marriage to Mary McHargh, who was born in Decatur county, the daughter of Peter McHargh. Peter McHargh was a native of Scotland, who emigrated to America in his youth and after prospecting a bit over the country located in this county, where he became a man of large influence. He was a prosperous farmer and was one of the first county officers in the county, performing excellent service therein. He was an ardent Republican and took a leading part in the political affairs of the county, his name being deeply impressed upon the political history of this section.

Mr. and Mrs. Nesbitt were members of the Presbyterian church and for many years were active in all good works in and about Greensburg, where they were held in the highest regard by all. Mr. Nesbitt was for years one of the leaders in the Republican party in this county, his counsels

receiving the utmost consideration from the party managers. He was not of the office-seeking class, however, preferring to devote his chief attention to his business affairs. He was one of the most prominent members of the Greensburg post of the Grand Army of the Republic and ever displayed the deepest interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and had attained to the chapter degree in that order. His death, in 1911, was sincerely mourned, for he was a good man and his influence ever had been directed in behalf of the best interests of the community in which nearly the whole of his long life had been spent.

Charles M. Nesbitt received his elementary education in the schools of Greensburg and was graduated from the high school there. He supplemented this course of instruction by a course in the Alexander Hamilton Institute and in the International Correspondence School, later serving as deputy postmaster in the postoffice at Greensburg until 1898, in which year he was made manager of the plant of the Central Union Telephone Company at Greensburg, later being transferred to the general offices of the company at Indianapolis, in which he served in several capacities until his promotion to the important position of superintendent of the commercial telephone service for the entire state of Indiana, a position which he still occupies.

On October 20, 1911, Charles M. Nesbitt was united in marriage to Beulah Merriken, who was born in Alexandria, Indiana, daughter of William S. and Mary Merriken, the former of whom is a well-known real-estate dealer at Alexandria. To this union one child has been born, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, who was born on February 5, 1915.

Mr. Nesbitt is a Republican and during his residence in Greensburg was an active worker in the ranks of that party, retaining his interest in political affairs after moving to Indianapolis to the extent of his ability and the limited time he has for the exercise of such activities. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, of the Elks and the Knights of Pythias, his membership in these fraternities at Greensburg having been retained; and is a member of the Columbia Club at Indianapolis, the leading Republican club of the state of Indiana. Mr. Nesbitt retains the heartiest interest in Decatur county affairs and is ever sure of a hearty welcome upon his return to this county. He still retains a one-third interest in the extensive mule-sale stable at Greensburg which was founded and so successfully conducted by his father, beside owning other property in that city and property at Indianapolis. His activity and energy have made him a leader in the field

of endeavor in which his later years has been occupied and he has the entire confidence and respect of the heads of the company with which he so long has been connected.

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### GEORGE A. WEADON.

In a biographical sketch relating to his honored father, the late Frank M. Weadon, presented elsewhere in this volume, the genealogy of the gentleman whose name the reader notes as the caption of this sketch is set out at some length; revealing there that he is a scion of the union of two of the most prominent families in the history of Decatur county, the Weadons and the Jamisons, his father having been a former county auditor of Decatur county and for years deputy postmaster at Greensburg; later revenue collector for this district, under appointment by Abraham Lincoln, and later and for many years prominently connected with the offices of the Big Four Railroad Company, in the division headquarters of that company at Indianapolis, in which city his death occurred on December 21, 1914. His widow, who is the daughter of Francis Jamison, for many years a prominent merchant of Greensburg, this county, whose father, Martin Jamison, a native of Scotland, was the leading merchant of Greensburg in the pioneer days of that city, still is living in Indianapolis, the object of the most affectionate regard of many devoted friends, who take pleasure in honoring her beautiful old age.

George A. Weadon was born in Greensburg, Indiana, on December 25, 1863, the son of Frank M. and Mary Jane (Jamison) Weadon, of pleasant memory in this county, and received his education in the Greensburg schools, being a graduate of the high school in that city. He enjoyed an excellent preliminary training in the dry-goods line in his grandfather's old-established store at Greensburg, devoting his attention particularly to the millinery department of the same, and in 1885, went to Indianapolis, forming a business connection with the old firm of Griffiths Brothers, wholesale millinery, in that city. This connection continued until 1891, in which year he transferred his services to the firm of Fahnley & McCrea, well-known in the millinery trade throughout the middle states as wholesale milliners and dealers in millinery supplies. Beginning practically at the bottom of this line of business, Mr. Weadon, by close application and the proper exercise of a native talent for that business, has risen to the top and is now and for some years past has been a member of this well-established old firm, occupy-

ing a most substantial position in the commercial life of the state's capital city.

George A. Weadon was united in marriage to Jennie A. Nicholson, of Indianapolis, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, who is now a student at Fairmount Seminary, at Washington, D. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Weadon are members of the Methodist church and are active in good works in the capital city. Mr. Weadon is a member of the Masonic fraternity, being connected with Oriental lodge at Indianapolis, and is warmly interested in the affairs of that order. For years he has been one of the most active workers in the state organization of traveling salesmen and is now the vice-president of that popular association. He is a Republican and takes a good citizen's part in the political life of the city and state, his sound judgment and close acquaintance with business conditions giving much weight to his political opinions. He is one of the really successful of the younger business men of Indianapolis and enjoys the firm confidence and respect of business circles in that city. He has a very extensive acquaintance in the millinery trade throughout this section of states and no one in that line is more popular than he.

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#### FRANCIS GATES KETCHUM.

Among the prominent younger attorneys of Greensburg, Indiana, is Francis Gates Ketchum, who was born on January 30, 1888, on a farm four miles south of Greensburg, Decatur county, the son of the Rev. William E. and Sarah (Meredith) Ketchum.

The Rev. William E. Ketchum, the son of William Stanley Ketchum, a veteran of the Civil War, who migrated to Decatur county at the close of this war, is the president of the Holiness Christian denomination, and is a traveling evangelist, although he owns a farm of ninety-eight acres in Decatur county. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Sarah Meredith, is a native of Decatur county, Indiana, and has been the mother of five children. Francis Gates is the eldest. The others are Laura Rebecca, Ina May, Isom Stanley and Carrie Anderson.

Reared on the old William Anderson Robbins farm, in Decatur county, Indiana, and educated in the public schools of Decatur county, and in the Greensburg high school, Francis Gates Ketchum read law during odd times and in law offices in Greensburg, and was admitted to the practice in



March, 1909. Although he is still a comparatively young man and has been engaged in the practice of his profession but a few years, he has won many friends in Greensburg, and promises in time to become one of the leading attorneys of Decatur county. He is a young man of engaging personality, though modest and unassuming in his manners, and one who for his years is well versed in the profession in which he is engaged. With his capacity for profound and thorough studentship, and for making and maintaining cordial relations with the people with whom he comes in contact, it would appear that Francis Gates Ketchum has a bright future.

Mr. Ketchum is a member of the Democratic party and in time is expected to take his place among the leaders of the party in this county. Mr. Ketchum is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is identified with the Loyal Order of Moose.

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#### OLIVER F. WELCH, M. D.

A prominent Hoosier writer and historian has said: "There is but one end in life that is worth while, and that is to conquer adversity, pain, envy, regrets, and the varied obstacles that are put in our path and to develop our fortitude, our courage, and our brains." This seems especially true in the life of the physician, particularly when he has become distinguished in his profession through his own efforts. The sons of farmers in the early days of Indiana had not the educational facilities that they enjoy in this generation, and this, apart from any financial considerations, for there seemed to be a very widespread sentiment then to the effect that the sons of farmers should work on the farm as soon as they had finished the meager course offered in the country schools. This sentiment became one of the obstacles which every ambitious youth had to meet and, therefore, should all credit and praise be given to the man who, through his own unaided exertions, came to be one of the ablest and most popular men of his profession in the vicinity in which he lives. This may be said truly of Dr. Oliver F. Welch, a well-known physician of Westport.

Oliver F. Welch was born on September 25, 1871, in Jay, Switzerland county, Indiana. He is the son of Thomas S. and Lucinda (Jackson) Welch, both natives of this county. The former, born in 1853, was the son of Benjamin Welch, a native of Virginia, who came with his father, Metellus, at an early date from Virginia to the Hoosier state. Lucinda Jackson

was the daughter of John A. and Elizabeth Jackson, of Cross Plains, Indiana, who formerly lived in Kentucky. Going back another generation, we find that John A. Jackson was the son of Will Jackson, also of Cross Plains, and a native of Kentucky. The latter died in 1877, at the age of seventy-six. With others, he had migrated with his family from his native Southern state in the days when there were no railroads, and when every foot of land had to be cleared before it could be plowed and cultivated. Perhaps it was from this sturdy pioneer character that the subject of the present sketch inherited the qualities which have enabled him to conquer obstacles and rise to the head of his profession.

The father of Oliver F. Welch moved to Ripley county, Indiana, in 1881, and from the first became a well-liked and successful farmer. There were born to Thomas Welch and his wife four sons, two of whom are members of the medical profession: Dr. Oliver F. is the oldest son; Dr. J. A. Welch, of Letts, who was born in 1874; William Benjamin, 1878, and residing near Versailles; and Albert W., 1881, who is a farmer and engaged in the poultry business.

While the education of Oliver F. Welch began in the country schools, it was not completed until he had studied in other states than the one in which his home was located, and so great was his ambition to excel in the medical world that he pursued his studies even after his marriage. His first schooling was at New Marion, and the Normal, after the courses offered in these schools were finished, he taught during four terms of the Ripley county schools. Determining upon the career of a physician, he began the study of medicine in 1895 in the Illinois Medical College at Chicago, graduating in 1897. He then entered the Hospital College of Medicine at Louisville, and after his marriage, located in Westport. In 1899 and 1904 he took post-graduate courses in the Chicago Polyclinic, and four years later went to New York, where he became a post-graduate student. Doctor Welch is remembered as an earnest, conscientious student, thorough and painstaking in his work, and scientific in his mental processes.

Oliver F. Welch was married to Mary E. Robertson on July 4, 1897. His bride was the daughter of John A. and Margaret (Merrell) Robertson, of Ripley county, but formerly of Jefferson and Jennings counties, respectively. John Robertson died in 1906, having attained the age of eighty-one years.

There were born to Mr. and Mrs. Welch three children: Gladys M., born in May, 1899, now in her second year of high school; Bertie, September 20, 1903, and Scoville Frank, June 29, 1907.

The place occupied by Doctor Welch among the members of his chosen profession may be evidenced by the fact that he is a prominent member of the American Medical Association and takes an active part in their deliberations.

Doctor Welch's tastes and interests are varied, and while he has concentrated his time and thought and strength upon the exacting demands of his profession, he has found time to ally himself with the organizations which broaden the mental horizon as well as the moral nature, and which contribute something to the sum total of human betterment. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and an elder in the Christian church of Westport.

As a young man Doctor Welch was imbued with the qualities that made it impossible for him to be satisfied with anything but success of a high order, no matter in what field of human activity his choice or fate might lead him. So great are the demands upon the physician of modern time that success for him means strength of character, resoluteness of purpose, mental acumen, and, withal, a sympathy that is human, and, therefore, genuine. Doctor Welch has been fortunate in the possession of all of these essentials, and he is now a representative man in the medical profession of this state.

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### JOHN HENRY DENISTON.

John Henry Deniston, a leading farmer and stockman of Jackson township, Decatur county, Indiana, on his paternal side, is descended from sturdy Scottish ancestry and in his long career as a resident of this township has exhibited many of the worthy traits which characterize the Scotch people. His large capacity for business he, no doubt, has inherited from men who were famous centuries ago for their warlike dispositions, but who in recent years both in this country and abroad, have become great masters of industrial enterprise. His father, a prominent citizen of this country at the time of his death, was a successful farmer after coming to this county from Butler county, Ohio.

John Henry Deniston was born on May 3, 1862, in Butler county, Ohio, near Scipio, the son of John Franklin and Mary Ellen (DeArmond) Deniston, the former of whom was born on September 4, 1833, and died on January 22, 1889, and the latter of whom was born on January 26, 1842, and died on February 11, 1867. John F. Deniston was the son of John Deniston, a native of Scotland, who came to America with his parents

and settled first in Franklin county, Indiana, where he was a tanner and shoemaker. After he moved to Butler county, Ohio, he operated a tannery and made shoes and boots at that place. In 1866 John Franklin Deniston came to Decatur county and located at Sardinia, followed closely by his brother, William H. They farmed in partnership and operated two hundred acres of land until 1879, when John Henry Deniston purchased the land. Mary Ellen (DeArmond) Deniston was a native of Butler county, Ohio, and the daughter of James DeArmond, who, after living in Decatur county for a few years, returned to Butler county, where he died.

John Franklin and Mary Ellen Deniston had two children, John Henry, the subject of this sketch, and James William, who resides with his brother. John F. Deniston was an ardent and loyal Democrat, a member of the Universalist church and the Knights of Pythias.

John Henry Deniston has lived on the farm of two hundred acres which he now occupies since in 1867. Altogether he owns three hundred seven and one-half acres of land, two hundred acres of which comprises the home farm. He has a good home and the farm is well-equipped with out-buildings for extensive farming and stock-raising. For more than thirty years, Mr. Deniston has been handling live stock and, for the past twenty-seven years, has been a large shipper. He ships from fifty to seventy-five carloads of stock annually and, aside from this business, is an extensive breeder of Hereford cattle, having begun raising this breed in 1905. He keeps only purebred and registered stock and breeds solely for commercial purposes.

On August 19, 1883, John Henry Deniston was married to Eliza Eden Seal, who was born on May 28, 1865, in Decatur county, near the Liberty church, the daughter of John B. and Emily Seal. Mrs. Deniston passed away on August 20, 1907, leaving two children, J. Ray and Audrey Dawn. The former was born on December 20, 1884, at Sardinia. He married Bertha Smith, of Greensburg, and is now engaged in managing the farm owned by his father. Audrey Dawn, who was born on January 29, 1893, is her father's housekeeper. Two other children born to Mr. and Mrs. Deniston are deceased: Blanche, who was born on August 7, 1886, died on October 4, 1886; and Joy Maude, January 31, 1888, died on November 4, 1888.

For nearly half a century John Henry Deniston has been an active Democrat and is considered one of the "wheel horses" of the Democracy in Decatur county. For many years he was a Democratic central committeeman and influential in the county councils of his party. His son, J. Ray,



is now a committeeman for the Democratic party. The father has served as delegate to congressional, judicial and state conventions of his party and attended the national conventions of the party at Denver and Baltimore. He is always looked upon as a man of dependable counsel in the organization of his party and the management of its campaigns. He has never aspired to office but he is a man who is equipped to fill almost any office within the gift of his party. He is a member of the Universalist church at Mt. Carmel, Franklin county, and prominent in fraternal circles in this county, being a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Alert, the Knights of Pythias at Westport, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Greensburg, and the Modern Woodmen of America at Sardinia.

John Henry Deniston has fully measured up to the responsibilities of citizenship in this great country. He has borne his share of the responsibility for every movement which has reflected the advancement of his home neighborhood, his township and his county. His great-grandfather came to America seeking greater political liberty and a larger measure of personal opportunities. The third generation of the family in America, thoroughly imbued with our notions of government and citizenship, has measured up nobly to the standard of his day and generation.

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#### HENRY BLANKMAN.

Among the several farmers of Decatur county who are descended from native-born German parents is Henry Blankman, of Marion township, one of the foremost citizens of this township, who owns a splendid farm of two hundred acres, which he has, by careful cultivation and painstaking attention to the details of agricultural, developed to a very high state of productivity. Although he now owns two hundred acres of land, he began about thirty-six years ago by purchasing forty acres of uncleared land, and after cutting away a place to build his home, improved the land from year to year, eventually erecting fine buildings, including a comfortable house, barn and outbuildings. His claim to honorable distinction among the farmers of Decatur county is not confined wholly to his success in agriculture, but in this period he has reared to honorable and useful lives a family of nine children, and herein has performed a service to his county and to his state which is of far reaching influence.

Henry Blankman was born on December 6, 1849, in Cincinnati, Ohio,

the son of Bernard Henry and Mary Angela (Lucken) Blankman, both natives of Germany, the former of whom was born in 1818, and died in 1896. After coming to America in 1839, Bernard Blankman worked on a flatboat on the Ohio river for two years and as a farm hand in Kentucky. Later he drove a team in Cincinnati, and after his marriage, about January, 1856, removed to Marion township, Decatur county, where he bought timber land with only a few acres cleared. From time to time he added to his original tract of fifty acres another fifty and still another fifty-two acres and one-half, all of which he cleared and improved. Bernard Henry and Mary Angela Blankman were the parents of five children who grew to maturity, namely: Mrs. Mary Hardebeck, deceased; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Herman H., of Marion township; George, a well-known farmer; and Mrs. Caroline Klosterkamper, of Ripley county. There were several children who died in infancy. In the early days when they were getting a start in the world they lived in a log cabin and could look through the cracks in the roof, and in the winter time it was not unusual for the family to find their beds covered with snow. Subsequently, a large brick house was built on the farm, and it is in this house that Herman H., a son, now lives. Bernard Henry Blankman passed away in 1896, and ten years later, in 1906, his beloved wife, who had been associated with him during all his trials and struggles, also passed away.

Henry Blankman lived at home with his parents until his marriage, and for three years afterwards lived on the farm owned by his father-in-law, Bernard Goldschmidt, and at the end of that period he purchased forty acres of land for four hundred and fifty dollars, and since 1879, when this land came into his possession, he has prospered year by year, until he is now recognized as one of the substantial farmers of Marion township.

On April 15, 1875, Henry Blankman was married to Mary Goldschmidt, the daughter of Bernard and Elizabeth Goldschmidt, who was born in 1857 in Cincinnati, and who came with her parents subsequently to a farm near Millhousen in Decatur county.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Blankman have been born nine children, as follow: Bernard, Edward, Frank, August, William, John, Theodore, Josephine and Clara. Of these children, Bernard, who was educated in the public schools of Decatur county, taught school for twelve years, and in the fall of 1914 was elected surveyor of Decatur county. He married Mary Hardebeck, and they have four children, Cyril, Paul, Alvin and Lama. Edward lives in the state of Minnesota. Frank, also a farmer in the state of Minnesota, married Carrie Knight, of Cincinnati, and they have six children,

Frank, Edward, Jacob, Henry, Marie and Robert. August and William also are farmers in Minnesota. John and Theodore live at home. Mrs. Josephine Ruhl lives in Marion township, and Mrs. Clara Vaske lives in Minnesota, and has one child, Angela, named for her grandmother, Mrs. Mary Angela (Lucken) Blankman.

Although Henry Blankman has always been an enthusiastic and ardent Democrat, he has never been an office seeker. The only position of official trust he has ever held, being a local office. He served for four years as a member of the township advisory board. The Blankman family are all members of St. Mary's Catholic church. Mr. Blankman is one of the substantial contributors to the support of this church.

Henry Blankman, who has lived in this part of Decatur county for a period of thirty-six years, is well known to the people. He is regarded as one of the best citizens and one of its most skillful farmers, and one of its most genial and companionable men, a man of sturdy and fixed determination, who is self-made in every particular. Here in Marion township the Blankman family enjoy the confidence and esteem of all who know them.

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#### SIMEON H. KENNEDY.

It is not a matter of accident that Decatur county has a body of farmers equal in enterprise, unexcelled in methods, and surpassing in production farmers of most any other county in the state of Indiana. In the first place this county was settled by men of strong determination and remarkable ability, men who even in the pioneer times surpassed most other pioneer communities in methods and results. Moreover the land is naturally fertile, which is itself a strong inducement to intensive cultivation of the soil, and development to the highest point of every agricultural possibility. Therefore, Decatur county has always excelled as an agricultural section. Of the many splendid farmers of the present generation in Decatur county, who belong to pioneer stock of this region and who have made a worthy success of their vocation, may be mentioned Simeon H. Kennedy, who owns two hundred and twenty acres of land in Marion township.

Simeon H. Kennedy was born on August 3, 1867, in Greensburg, the son of James and Charlotte (Jones) Kennedy, the former of whom was born on October 12, 1837, and died on March 25, 1910, and the latter of whom was born on October 29, 1844, and is still living in Johnson City with

her son, Dr. Wilbur T. She is a daughter of Simpson and Jane (Remy) Jones, the Remys and Joneses having been early settlers of Bartholomew county.

The grandfather of Simeon H. Kennedy was Samuel Kennedy, who emigrated to Franklin county, Indiana, about 1835, and to Decatur county, Indiana, about 1847, settling ten miles west of Greensburg in Clay township. Born in August, 1809, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, he died on March 13, 1890. His first wife, Margaret, who was born in 1808, and died May 28, 1852, was the mother of the following children: John, born on January 15, 1833, died October 3, 1855; William, January 19, 1834, died July 24, 1913; George, April 3, 1836, in Indiana, died April 28, 1865; James, the father of Simeon H., October 12, 1837, died, March 25, 1910; Samuel, June 15, 1840, died, October 30, 1855; Mrs. Nancy Braden, 1842; Sarah, June, 1844, died, September 18, 1849. Samuel Kennedy's second wife was Sarah A. Kennedy, who bore him four children, namely: C. B., who was born on May 2, 1854, and died, November 22, 1898; an infant son, on December 20, 1855, and died January 11, 1856; Mrs. Mary Eward and Anna, who was born in 1862.

James Kennedy, who had lived at home with his father until the breaking out of the Civil War, enlisted as a Union soldier in Company H, Fiftieth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Cavalry, in 1862, and was commissioned a second lieutenant. After his return home he was married, January 21, 1864, to Charlotte Jones, who bore him five children. Of these children, Carrie E. married Charles Evans, and they reside in Greensburg. Mr. Evans was one of the first rural mail carriers in Decatur county, and was born in October, 1864. Simeon H. is the subject of this sketch; Lewis W., who was born in 1870, died in 1890; Samuel E. died in infancy; Dr. Wilbur T., who was born in 1877, is a practicing physician at Johnson City, Tennessee.

Some fourteen years before his death the late James Kennedy removed to Lafayette, Indiana, where he died. At the time of his death he had been a member of the Masonic lodge a little more than fifty years. He joined the Improved Order of Red Men during the early seventies, and about that time became a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. At the time of his death he was a member of Milford Lodge No. 94, Free and Accepted Masons. In the winter of 1850 he joined the Methodist Episcopal church at Center Grove, and after removing to Lafayette affiliated with the Trinity church of that city.

Simeon H. Kennedy who started to school in Decatur county, Indiana, was brought by his parents to Marion township, in 1872, and here educated.



In 1885 at the age of eighteen he rented his father's farm and now owns the farm. He has added to this original tract from time to time until he now owns two hundred and twenty acres of very fine farming land, raising on an average fifty acres of corn, and twenty acres of wheat. He also has seven acres of alfalfa, and raises a large number of hogs and cattle every year.

On July 2, 1890, Simeon H. Kennedy was married to Clara Talbot, who was born in Greensburg, March 28, 1865, and who was the daughter of Henry Howard and Anna (Leffler) Talbot.

Mrs. Kennedy died on January 5, 1909, after having reared two daughters: Mabel, who was born on April 19, 1891, married Harry Bainbridge, and they reside one mile west of Greensburg, and have one child, Robert Kennedy, born on March 26, 1915; and Helen, who lives at home with her father, was born on December 31, 1893.

A Republican in politics, the only office Mr. Kennedy has ever held was that of one of the members of the township advisory board of Marion township. Nevertheless, he is a man whose counsel is sought in political matters, and who is influential in his neighborhood. Having joined the Methodist Episcopal church when he was a young man, he has been a loyal and devout member of this church all his life. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Greensburg.

During his long and useful life Simeon H. Kennedy has been a worthy citizen of this county, and has enjoyed an honorable career as a farmer and citizen, respected by the people of Marion township, where he is widely known. With earnest and sincere purpose he sought always to live worthily, and do his duty each day as it seemed to him it ought to be done.

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#### EDWARD KESSING.

The man who creates or amasses wealth may be considered an asset to a community, but he who finds pleasure in identifying himself with the affairs of men and movements which make for human betterment leaves an impress that becomes an inspiration to those who follow, and his business successes come to be looked upon as a secondary matter. The educated gentleman is a power in any community, for he is actuated by high ideals. Although somewhat handicapped by ill health, the life of the subject of the present article has been eminently successful, for his activities have not been limited to his personal affairs, and he has always stood for the things that are right and just and wholesome.

Edward Kessing is statistician for the Bureau of Commerce in Greensburg, Indiana, and Democratic county chairman. He was born on March 13, 1854, in Franklin county, Indiana, being the son of Herman H. and Elizabeth (Schroeder) Kessing. The father of Mr. Kessing was a native of Germany, being born there in 1823. He came to America in 1839, and became one of the first hatters in Cincinnati, where he learned the business. Previous to his marriage he had worked on the construction of the Ohio & Erie canal. It is interesting to know in this connection that it was while working on the canal that he learned to speak the English language. In 1851 he bought a farm in Franklin county, and operated it for several years, then removed to Decatur county, and purchased another farm at St. Maurice. This was in 1858. Besides superintending farm work, he had charge of a store from this date until the time of his death, in 1878. He was a member of the Ohio National Guards at Cincinnati at the time of the Mexican War. The mother of Mr. Kessing was a sister of J. H. Schroeder, the oldest resident of this county, and who is now living at Enochsburg. Mrs. Kessing was born in Germany in 1824. She is now a resident of Greensburg, but her former home was in Cincinnati, the city to which she came with her parents when she was twelve years of age.

There were seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Kessing, the eldest being Henry, who died in Greensburg in 1882. He was ordained a priest in 1868, afterwards preaching in Bloomington, Bedford and Gosport, and ten years after his ordination he went to Greensburg, where he was in charge of a parish at the time of his death. The other children were: Charles B., a dry goods merchant in Cincinnati; Agnes, wife of Joseph H. Maroney, of Pueblo, Colorado; Edward, the subject of this sketch; Mollie, who lives in Greensburg with her mother; Clem, a lithographer, of Cincinnati; and Frank, who is associated with the Citizens Artificial Gas Company.

Edward Kessing was fortunate in that he received a more thorough education many of the boys living in the same community, for he took the classical course at St. Naviers College at Cincinnati, after attending the common schools at St. Maurice.

Mr. Kessing's first business experience came as a storekeeper, for in the town in which he then lived he had charge of a store until his twenty-first year. In the fall of 1875 he took up the duties of the county recorder's office, having been elected to that position, serving for a term of four years. Then he engaged in the dry goods business, continuing until his health failed, at the end of twelve years. Again he entered upon public office, when, in 1892, he became deputy county auditor, a position he held for four years.

In 1896 he engaged in the life insurance business, continuing until his federal appointment as statistician for the Bureau of Commerce of the sixth district, which includes five counties. This appointment came on March 1, 1915.

Mrs. Kessing was formerly Rose Moffett of Edinburg, and her marriage to Mr. Kessing took place on June 1, 1886. She is the daughter of Michael and Rose Moffett. Mr. and Mrs. Kessing are the parents of five children, namely: Charles Edward, the eldest, who died at the age of twenty-four in 1911, was an expect inspector of veneers, and was employed by Thompson & Moffett Company of Cincinnati; Oliver Owen, after graduating from the high school of Greensburg was appointed to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, from which institution he was graduated in June, 1914, and is now an ensign officer on the cruiser "Maryland," although only twenty-four years old, he has traveled all over the world; Robert Leo, a graduate of the Greensburg high school, has been traveling for the Central Union Telephone Company, which has its headquarters at Indianapolis, he has been employed by them for five years, and is now twenty-one years of age; Moffett, aged nineteen, and Margaret, aged seventeen years, both are living at home, having completed the course of study prescribed for graduation from the high school of Greensburg.

Mr. Kessing has been since young manhood a prominent figure at the state and national conventions of the Democratic party, for he is known in the politics of the state of Indiana. The Democratic county ticket was elected while he was county chairman, an office which he held for two years. He has been a devout Catholic all of his life, and besides being a member of the organization of Knights of Columbus, he has belonged to the commandery of the Knights of St. John. In this organization he served as commander until he was elected colonel of the regiment. In 1890, he was honored by being elected supreme commander of the United States and Canada, at the meeting in Pittsburgh. After serving with credit to himself and the organization for a term, he was placed on the retired list with a "badge of honor" for excellent service.

If it is true that the greatness of a community or state depends not so much upon the nature of its government nor its institutions, as upon the character of its citizenship, then the man whose career we have outlined briefly has honored the city and state in which he lives by a life of personal integrity, as well as by public service in which the general good has always been the predominating and actuating motive. His has been a high order of citizenship.

## AARON LOGAN.

The name of Aaron Logan stands out conspicuously among the residents of Decatur county as that of a successful farmer and a valuable citizen. All of his undertakings have been actuated by noble motives and high resolves and characterized by breadth of wisdom and strong individuality. His success represents only the result of utilizing his native talents. At the present time he owns a productive farm of two hundred and fourteen acres, three-quarters of a mile west of Greensburg.

Aaron Logan was born in 1841 on the old Logan homestead about one mile from Greensburg, and is the son of Samuel and Susannah (Howard) Logan, the former of whom was born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1795, and came to Decatur county with Colonel Ireland and Colonel Henderson and entered land one mile from Greensburg, now known as the Logan farm. Susannah (Howard) was born on Paddy's run, in Ohio, in 1805. Samuel Logan first came to Decatur county and entered land and then returned to Pennsylvania. On his way back to Indiana from Pennsylvania, he stopped in Ohio and was married, and then came on to Indiana with his young bride. Here they lived the remainder of their lives, he dying in 1879. They were members of the Presbyterian church and he was a life-long Democrat, a man of strong character and high-minded conviction. Accustomed to hunt bears in the region around Greensburg, Samuel Logan and Colonel Henderson killed a bear on the spot where the Greensburg waterworks are now situated. He and his wife started in life very poor, but Samuel Logan was a money maker. He accumulated a considerable fortune. On his way across the Alleghany mountains from Pennsylvania, having started with a wagon and one horse, he traded with various people along the way until upon his arrival he owned four horses.

Samuel and Susannah (Howard) Logan had nine children, of whom James, John, Mrs. Martha Anne Hitt, Mrs. Jane Deen and Mrs. Rachel Hobbs are deceased; the latter was the wife of Alvin I. Hobbs, of Dennis, Iowa. Mrs. Mary Hamilton, the wife of Morgan Hamilton, is also deceased. Those living are Samuel Logan, Jr., who lives at Letts, in Clay township; Aaron, the subject of this sketch; and Frank, of Topeka, Kansas.

Aaron Logan began life for himself after having reached his majority, and for about three years was engaged in cultivating the old home place. After this he purchased ninety-two acres of land out of what was known as the old Hillis farm, which is now owned by William Hatche. Later, however, Mr. Logan sold that farm and purchased the land where he now lives.



He has always made a good living for himself and family and has always enjoyed the best things of life. In fact, there are few people living in Washington township who enjoy life more than Aaron Logan. He says that he gets more enjoyment out of what he can buy with a dollar than in keeping the dollar itself and for its own sake.

Aaron Logan was married to Susannah Simmons, who lived near Greensburg, the daughter of Edward and Polly (Howard) Simmons, both natives of Ohio, and of Scotch-Irish descent. Mr. and Mrs. Logan have had two children: Walter Scott Logan, deceased; Sherman, whose wife is deceased, and who by her had one child, Clyde L., born in 1901, lives with his father.

The Logan family have been Democrats for the most part for several generations, and Aaron Logan is no exception to the rule. He is in fact a loyal and faithful Democrat, interested in the welfare of his party. Mr. Logan is well known in Washington township, and has always enjoyed the confidence of his neighbors and fellow citizens.

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#### SCOTT F. CRIST.

There is nothing which stimulates a man to a worthy life more than the recollection of the strength of character, industry and wisdom of his forbears. In this respect Scott F. Crist, a prosperous farmer living on eighty acres, three and one-half miles northwest of Burney and two and one-half miles southwest of Milford, is favored far beyond the average since he is descended from men who have been leaders in Decatur county and who have performed well all of the duties of life, public and private. A heritage of such memory as it pertains to the lives of one's ancestors is of more value than a heritage of material wealth.

Scott F. Crist was the son of Abram and Catherine (Templeton) Crist. His father, born near Brookville, in Franklin county, in 1832, was the son of John and Polly (Deboise) Crist, the former of whom was a native of Ireland and who came to America when he was seventeen years old, with his parents, settling first on the east fork of White river in Franklin county, some time between 1820 and 1825. Eventually, John Crist entered land in Franklin county. The trip from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was made in a flatboat. John Crist became a successful farmer and made a large amount of money. He was a man of stern disposition and of firm convictions, who,

nevertheless, was well and favorably known as a substantial citizen. He died about 1850 after rearing a family of five children, of whom Abram Crist was the fourth. Abram Crist, who was born in 1832, grew to manhood on his father's farm in Franklin county and in 1854 was married to Catherine Templeton, who was the daughter of David and Jane (Barrickman) Templeton, the latter's parents being natives of Kentucky and the owners of a great deal of land where the city of Covington, Kentucky, now stands. David Templeton and Jane Barrickman were married in Kentucky and came to Franklin county, Indiana, in the winter, bringing with them all of their belongings on a sled. Entering land on Templeton creek, named for David Templeton, they lived there until the latter's death in 1863, and after his death his widow made her home with her children in Franklin and Decatur counties. She died in Adams in 1889. David Templeton was a successful business man and a fine Christian character.

After the marriage of Abram Crist and Catherine Templeton, they purchased a farm in Franklin county, which was sold in a short time and in 1860 they came to Decatur county, Indiana, and purchased two hundred and fifty-five acres of land in Adams township, where they lived the remainder of their lives. He was a very successful farmer and business man and well known in Decatur county. He was a Republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Personally, Abram Crist was a human dynamo, who seemed never to tire. He had a host of friends at the time of his death in 1873.

Scott F. Crist grew up on the farm in Decatur county and in 1885 was married to Martha Vanausdall, the daughter of Joseph and Annie (Ferguson) Vanausdall, the former of whom was a native of Butler county, Ohio, and the latter of Franklin county, Ohio. They came to Decatur county about forty-one years ago and settled on the farm in Adams township, known as the Oliver Deem farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Crist have had one son, Raymond, who was born on October 8, 1886, and who was married to Dora Mercer, the daughter of Archibald and Mary Elizabeth Mercer. The Mercers are natives of Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. and Mrs. Crist, after their marriage, started in life with nothing and Mr. Crist rented land for several years. Finally, he was able to purchase and pay five hundred dollars cash on eighty acres of land, on which he and his wife now live. They have a beautiful home which cost approximately four thousand dollars and which has most of the modern conveniences.

A man of progressive ideas and deeply interested in his country's wel-

fare, Scott F. Crist is a Republican in politics. He is intensely patriotic and has a host of friends in this county. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Milford.

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### LOUIS O. TRAVIS.

A career marked by earnest and indefatigable application was that of the late Louis O. Travis, who during his life was a successful farmer in Decatur county. His life was an open book and at his death he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of hundreds of people living in this county who knew him for his worth as a man and a citizen.

Louis O. Travis was born in 1869 in Decatur county, Indiana, near Mechanicsburg, on his father's farm, the son of James and Elizabeth (Steward) Travis, the former of whom was born in Kentucky in 1831, and who came to Decatur county in pioneer days and settled on a farm near Oldenburg in Franklin county. He owned eighty acres of land which he sold later in life, buying a farm near New Point, which he still owns. James Travis is now retired and living with his daughter, Mrs. Curtis Wright, of Greensburg, Indiana. He has been a successful farmer and business man and is well known and respected. A life-long Democrat, he has taken a keen interest in the politics of this county, state and country. He is a member of the Baptist church. His wife, who before her marriage was Elizabeth Stewart, was born in Franklin county on January 4, 1829, near Brookville. She died on June 27, 1906, in Franklin county.

James and Elizabeth (Stewart) Travis were the parents of six children, as follow: Wilbur, of Rushville; John, of Greensburg; George, of Batesville; Henry T., a farmer of near Mechanicsburg; Louis, the subject of this sketch; and Mrs. Hettie Travis Wright, the wife of Curtis Wright, of Greensburg. There were also three children by a previous marriage, namely: William, of Decatur county; Mrs. "Sis" Travis Taylor, the wife of Richard Taylor, of Greensburg; and Mrs. Travis Hawkins, the wife of B. Hawkins, of Kansas.

Louis O. Travis, when he was three years old, was brought from Franklin to Decatur county, Indiana, and grew to manhood in this county. He was educated in the schools of Decatur county, and in 1897 was married to Annie Baker, the daughter of John and Annie Baker. The father of Mrs. Travis was a native of Germany who after his marriage came with his wife

and two small children to America. They arrived here about 1865 and after living for a short time in Cincinnati, where he was engaged in the mercantile business they came, in 1875, to Decatur county, Indiana, and settled on a farm near New Pennington. He was a successful business man and well respected citizen. A Republican in politics, he was prominent in the councils of his party. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, the church which stood on the corner of his farm. He died in 1892, and his wife in 1898.

After his marriage Louis O. Travis rented a farm in Adams township, where he and his wife lived for five years, when they purchased a hundred and sixty acres of land. There they lived about one year, and after selling the farm came to Washington township and purchased a small farm in the suburbs of Greensburg. It was a beautiful home, ideally located, and here Mrs. Travis and her only son, Virgil Louis Travis, born on May 6, 1903, live. Mrs. Travis is a woman of most pleasing disposition and respected by the people in the community where she lives.

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#### HARRY W. BALLARD.

It is well proved by the variety of human experiences that success is the immediate result of native ability, well-applied energy and perseverance. Idlers and dreamers have their place in the world and no large success comes unless it comes after one has dreamed dreams and seen visions. In the long run, however, only those men who diligently seek the favor of success are crowned with its blessings. The large success which Harry W. Ballard, a well-known artist of Decatur county has enjoyed has come to him partially no doubt as the result of his native ability, but largely because he set about early in life to work out his own destiny.

Born in St. Paul, Adams township, in 1869, Harry W. Ballard is the son of Dr. D. J. and Anna (French) Ballard, natives of Decatur county and prominent citizens here.

Educated in the common and high schools of Decatur county, Harry W. Ballard became a student in T. C. Steel's art school under the direction of Mr. Forsyth and Mr. Steel as instructors. After finishing the course he attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and later became an instructor in the John Herron Institute at Indianapolis in commercial art. He has been active in commercial art for more than twenty-five years, and



during most of the past twenty-five years has acted as superintendent of the art department of various engraving establishments. Mr. Ballard is now the superintendent of the Printing Arts Company, of Indianapolis, and is on the art staff of the *Woman's Magazine*, of Elgin, Illinois. His life has been a very busy one and he has devoted his time to his profession.

Mr. Ballard has exhibited his work at the John Herron Art Institute with Indiana artists and this in itself is sufficient proof of the merit of his work. He works in oil, pastel, water colors, pen and ink and burnt wood. His work is characterized especially with realism and is true to nature and life.

Among his other accomplishments Mr. Ballard is a musician of considerable ability. He plays the saxophone, plays the piano and sings. He is indeed a true artist in every fiber of his being.

In 1897, Mr. Harry W. Ballard was married to Frances Floyd, a daughter of E. L. and Anne (Paul) Floyd, natives of Decatur county. It was for the family of Mrs. E. L. Floyd that the town of St. Paul was named. E. L. Floyd, Mrs. Ballard's father, was a native of Kentucky, born in 1823. He left Kentucky with his parents and came to Shelby county, Indiana, where he was educated. Later he attended Indiana University for one year, and in 1855 was married to Anne Paul, a daughter of John P. Paul, a prominent citizen of Decatur county. After their marriage they began life for themselves in St. Paul in the home which Mrs. Ballard now owns. Mr. Floyd was a very successful man in all of his business undertakings and one of more than average ability. He was a man of high ideals whose outlook on life was the very brightest. In 1885 as a Republican he represented Decatur county in the Indiana General Assembly. He served valiantly as a soldier in the Mexican War. A public-spirited citizen and man, he had a fair knowledge of law. Though not professing to be a lawyer, he had no little law practice. E. L. Floyd was one of the biggest men mentally who has ever lived in this community.

Anne Gregg Paul, the wife of E. L. Floyd, and the mother of Mrs. Harry W. Ballard, was the eldest child born to her parents. She was born in St. Paul, in 1837, in the old brick residence which is today the oldest building in the town, and which was built by her father in 1823. John P. Paul was born in 1801 and was of Scottish and English origin. He was one of the solid and substantial citizens of Decatur county and had much to do with the development of this section. He died in 1867. During his early life he was a member of the Whig party. Upon the disintegration of that party and the formation of the Republican party he became a Republican.

E. L. and Anne Gregg (Paul) Floyd had six children, of whom Mrs. Harry W. Ballard was the youngest. The names of the children in the order of their birth are as follow: James E., who was born in 1855, was a graduate of Indiana University and died in 1893 at Decatur, Illinois; Walter F., 1857, and who was a graduate of Butler College, died in 1882; Oliver P., 1861, is living in Granite City, Illinois, and is connected with the engineering department of the American Steel Foundry Company; George G., 1865, was a student at Purdue University, lives at Riverside, Illinois, where he is chief engineer for the American Steel Foundry Company; Nellie F., 1867, married George L. Mueller, who is now deceased; Frances is the wife of Mr. Ballard.

Anne Gregg Paul was born in 1873 in St. Paul and grew to womanhood in this town. She was educated in the common and high schools of Decatur county and was graduated from the St. Paul high school with the class of 1889. In 1890 she went to Purdue University, at Lafayette, where she studied for four years, finishing the scientific course in 1894. After finishing the course at Purdue she came home and here remained for three years, until her marriage in 1897 to Mr. Ballard.

Mr. and Mrs. Ballard have one son, Jack Floyd Ballard, who was born in 1905, in Southport, near Indianapolis. He is now a lad of ten years and is attending school at St. Paul.

Mrs. Ballard is intensely interested and actively engaged in flower growing. She is in partnership with her sister, Mrs. Nellie F. Mueller, the widow of George L. Mueller, of Lafayette, Indiana. Their flower garden has been appropriately named the "Dripping Springs Garden," so named from the dripping springs along Flat Rock river, well known to nature lovers of central Indiana. The garden, which is located on the Paul farm, originally owned and entered by William Paul in 1821, will eventually comprise the entire farm of a hundred and seventy acres. It lies north and east of St. Paul and extends up to the edge of town and is an ideal spot for the tourist and lover of nature. It is traversed by beautiful Flat Rock river. Mrs. Ballard and her sister, Mrs. Mueller, expect eventually to make a flower garden out of the entire farm and to irrigate it from the springs.

Mrs. Nellie Mueller, who is Mrs. Ballard's partner in the flower farm and garden, grew to womanhood and was educated in the common and high schools of Decatur county. She later attended Purdue University, where she was a student in the scientific course. She was married in 1888 to George L. Mueller, whose parents were natives of Germany. Mr. Mueller died in 1909, leaving one child, Floyd Mueller, who was born in 1890, and who is an architect in Chicago. He is a graduate of Purdue University.

Mrs. Harry W. Ballard is a woman of more than ordinary ability, and of pleasing and attractive personality. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at St. Paul and widely acquainted in this county. She is a member of the Irvington Coterie Club, of Indianapolis, and also the Department Club, of Greensburg. At their beautiful home in St. Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Ballard entertain on a large scale and have a host of friends in Indiana and neighboring states. Mr. Ballard is a member of the Masonic fraternity and a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is a Republican and a member of the Methodist church. He takes an active interest in public affairs and is keenly interested in public questions. Decatur county has every reason to be proud of the careers of Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Ballard.

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#### GEORGE L. HESS.

George L. Hess, a well-known sportsman, business man and politician of St. Paul, Decatur county, Indiana, was born in 1867, in Jennings county, Indiana, the son of John V. and Elizabeth (Clillis) Hess, who undertook the voyage from Germany to America in a sailboat in 1852. The voyage took six months and on this voyage their first child was born. During the trip the mother of John V. Hess died and was buried at sea. On the arrival of the family in America after a few weeks sojourn in New York City they journeyed to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and thence by boat to Cincinnati, Ohio, where they settled and where the elder Mr. Hess took up his business of brick making. After remaining in Cincinnati for three or four years the family removed to Jennings county, Indiana, near St. Ann on Bear creek, where they lived on a farm for several years. Eventually, however, they sold out and removed to a farm in Bartholomew county, near Alert. This last farm was known as the old Thomas Johnson estate and here the family remained for four years and then removed to Decatur county, Indiana, settling near the town of Burney, where they lived for two years and then moved to a farm near St. Paul, one-half mile from St. Omer. Later they removed to Orange township, Rush county, to the Wilson farm, where they lived for sixteen years, when they sold out and removed to St. Paul, January 13, 1896. Here George L. Hess went into business. He had begun life for himself when about twelve or fourteen years old, launching out into the horse and dog business. He has been very successful in both lines of endeavor. Being a great lover of horses and dogs he has become an extensive breeder

of purebred fox hounds and bird dogs. Mr. Hess is a member of the National Fox Hunters Association of Kentucky and has participated in all of its meets. He has been especially successful as a breeder of dogs and likewise as a breeder of horses. He bred and trained "Maude H.," pacer, which attained a record of 2:16 $\frac{1}{4}$  in 1893. Mr. Hess's business as a horse and dog breeder far exceeds that of any other person in Decatur or Shelby counties, a notable fact when it is remembered that St. Paul is only about one-fifth as large as either Greensburg or Shelbyville. His personality has been one of the large factors in his success, and in such a business as this where so much depends upon the honor and integrity of the breeder and dealer he has been fortunate since he has the unqualified confidence of the people.

On December 2, 1885, George L. Hess was married to Nettie Frakes, daughter of David Frakes, whose wife was a Pierce, natives of Decatur county and successful farmers of this county. Likewise they were well-known and well-respected citizens. To Mr. and Mrs. Hess was born one daughter, Minnie E., who is the wife of Elmer Shortridge. Mr. and Mrs. Shortridge have one daughter, Percella.

In 1891 Mr. Hess was married, secondly, to Cora D. Higgs, a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Burris) Higgs, natives of Decatur county, and well-known and respected citizens. To this union was born one daughter, Edna C. Hess, who married J. T. McCoy, the son of Curtis McCoy, of Decatur county. They have one son, George Trimble McCoy.

George L. Hess is one of the solid, substantial citizens of Decatur county, and one whose word is known to be as good as his bond.

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#### CLYDE C. MORRISON, M. D.

No one is quite able to measure the value of the work performed by the skillful and conscientious physician. His work is performed under circumstances, which call forth not only his best individual talents but likewise his most active and warmest sympathies. Unless the physician be equipped by temperament and personality with a breadth and depth of sympathy, his talents are likely to avail him very little. Not that a large measure of professional training is unimportant or unnecessary, but with this must go a measure of sincerity and a spirit of service which transcends all professional training. Dr. Clyde C. Morrison, one of the able and well-equipped physicians of



Greensburg, Indiana, has enjoyed a large measure of success in the practice of his profession because he possesses the natural instinct of service. Trained as a farmer, mechanic, teacher, drug clerk, physician, soldier, he has broadened these experiences by his travels into practically every state of the Union and Province of Canada, and into old Mexico.

Clyde C. Morrison has scarcely reached the prime of life, having been born on August 24, 1872, in Clifty township, Bartholomew county, Indiana. He is the son of Robert and Mary J. (McCullough) Morrison. On both his paternal and maternal sides, Doctor Morrison's ancestry is Scotch-Irish, his grandparents, James and Nancy Morrison, having come to this country from County Down, Ireland, and settled in Bartholomew county in pioneer times. His grandparents on his maternal side of the family, Henry and Elizabeth McCullough, came to this country from County Tyrone, Ireland. They settled first in Butler county, Ohio, but later moved to Bartholomew county, Indiana.

Although his father died in 1880, Doctor Morrison's mother is still living and resides at Hartsville. She was born on November 5, 1839. Notwithstanding the fact that she is now seventy-five years of age, she is still well preserved and in possession of all of her native faculties.

From the time he was eight until he was eighteen, he lived with his grandfather, Henry McCullough, a farmer of Columbus township, who resided one mile east of Columbus and attended the district schools and the Columbus high school. Afterwards he attended the Central Normal College of Danville and the Valparaiso University. Beginning his career in the school room at the age of twenty, he taught four years in the district schools of Bartholomew county, two years in the city schools of Columbus and three years as principal of the high school at Hartsville. Having begun the study of medicine, while clerking in a drug store he completed the course at Kentucky School of Medicine at Louisville, Kentucky, and Grand Rapids Medical College. He has taken post-graduate work at Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio, and at Chicago, Illinois. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, he enlisted in the hospital corps of the army and assisted Major Vaughn in establishing the Third Division hospital of the Seventh Army Corps at Camp Cuba Libre, Jacksonville, Florida, and was later transferred to Fort Thomas, Kentucky, and Fort Monroe, Virginia. Eventually, he was transferred to Washington City and discharged at that place after the war.

Doctor Morrison was engaged in the practice of his profession at Hartsville and Burney, and came to Greensburg March 1, 1911.

On November 16, 1898, Doctor Morrison was married to Hattie B. Rominger, of Hartsville, the daughter of Thomas W. and Sarah Rominger. Doctor and Mrs. Morrison have three children: Thomas R., who was born April 25, 1900; Sheldon, who was born March 17, 1906, and James T., who was born February 12, 1908.

Religiously, Doctor Morrison and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Free and Accepted Masons.

No better evidence of the confidence placed in Doctor Morrison by his fellow townsmen and by the citizens of Decatur county can be presented than by the fact that he is president of the board of directors of the new Young Men's Christian Association, an institution which is perhaps, as a public enterprise, dearer to the hearts of the people of this city than anything undertaken within recent years.

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#### JUDGE DAVID ALBERT MYERS.

Indiana has long been distinguished for the high rank of her bench and bar. Perhaps none of the newer states can justly boast of abler jurists or attorneys. Many lawyers of this state have achieved national fame. While the growth and development of the state in the last half century has been marvelous, viewed from almost any standpoint, yet of no other class of her citizenship has this state greater reason for just pride than for the distinction and eminence gained by her judges and attorneys. Judge David Albert Myers, of Greensburg, Indiana, has long ranked as a profound lawyer and an able, eminent and impartial jurist. He served a little more than eight years as a judge of the appellate court of Indiana, and before that was for a short time judge of the eighth judicial district by appointment.

David Albert Myers was born on August 5, 1859, near Logansport, in Cass county, Indiana, and is the son of Henry C. and Maria (Bright) Myers, the former of whom was born in 1834, and who died, April 10, 1902, and the latter of whom was born in 1836. Henry C. Myers was a native of Ohio, born near Hamilton, in Butler county, the son of John Myers, a pioneer settler of Cass county, who came to Indiana in the early part of 1835, when Logansport was a mere hamlet. There he purchased a tract of land, and clearing it, became a prominent farmer and citizen and a leader in the life of the community. During the latter years of his life he ranked as the oldest settler. On this farm Henry C. Myers, the father of Judge David A., was

reared and married. He owned a farm within a mile of the pioneer homestead and became a prosperous citizen. In later years he owned four hundred and seventy acres of land. A Republican, he took great interest in political matters. Judge Myers' mother was a native of Virginia and the daughter of Anson Bright, an early settler of Cass county, who lived near the home of John Myers and who settled in Cass county in 1841. Judge Myers' mother lives on the old home place. There were four children in the Myers family. Of these children, Emma M. is at home; Charles W. owns a part of the home farm; Van is a farmer in Cass county; and David A. is the subject of this sketch.

After assisting his father on the farm until seventeen years old, Judge Myers entered Smithson College, where he remained for a year and one-half. Later he attended the Danville Normal School for a year and one-half, also Union University and the Albany Law School, from which he was graduated in 1881. The same year he began the practice of law in Greensburg, and today is regarded as the dean of the legal profession in this city. At the end of his first year he moved to his present office in the fall of 1882. He has one of the finest law libraries in the state of Indiana. His first political office was that of city attorney to which he was elected in 1886. He held this office until his election as prosecuting attorney in 1890 for the circuit comprising Rush and Decatur counties. This office he held two terms or four years. In 1899 Judge Myers was appointed by Governor Mount as judge of the eighth judicial district and served until the election following in 1900. At the judicial convention in 1900 Rush and Decatur counties each nominated a candidate for judge, and Judge Douglas Morris was elected. The legislature subsequently redistricted these counties, and Decatur county was joined with Bartholomew.

On October 18, 1904, Judge Myers was appointed a judge of the appellate court for the first Indiana district, and on the same day was selected as the nominee of the Republican party for appellate judge. He was elected and served four years, and in 1908 was renominated and reelected, serving until January 1, 1913. In the election of 1908 Judge Myers had the largest plurality of any candidate on the Republican ticket, a plurality of over sixteen thousand. That year several candidates on the Democratic ticket, including the Democratic candidate for governor, were elected. Judge Myers was renominated in 1912 without opposition, but the state went Democratic and he was defeated. No word of suspicion has ever been cast regarding the judicial record of Judge Myers. He has had an honorable and successful career on the bench and one of which he and the party which nominated him to this office may be proud.

One year before finishing his college course David Albert Myers was married to Laura Hart, who died in 1883. In September, 1907, he was married, secondly, to Margaret McNaught, the daughter of M. F. McNaught, proprietor of the Garland Milling Company, of Greensburg.

A stockholder in the Greensburg Electric Light Company, Judge Myers is also a director of the Greensburg National Bank and has been since its organization in 1900. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and is a Scottish Rite Mason of the thirty-second degree. He is a member of the Knights Templar at Shelbyville and the Mystic Shrine at Indianapolis, and also a member of the Odd Fellows and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

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#### HON. FRANCIS I. GALBRAITH.

Every one who lives in a state and enjoys its protection, must contribute through his work, directly or indirectly, to further the object of the state as a community for the purpose of justice and civilization. Not until then is he a useful member of the state. There can be no doubt but that it is the duty of all men to contribute so far as they are able to the well-being of the community where they live, of the state in which they were born and the country which has nurtured them.

Francis I. Galbraith, farmer, manufacturer, banker, commission merchant and public-spirited man of affairs, is one of the leading citizens of Decatur county and a man who is well known in the capital of the state, where he has spent a considerable part of his time in recent years and where he has extensive interests in many kinds of property.

Born on October 29, 1860, near Rugby, Bartholomew county, Indiana, Francis I. Galbraith is a son of Enos S. and Catherine (Phumphry) Galbraith, the former of whom was the son of Enos Galbraith, Sr.

Francis I. Galbraith attended school in Bartholomew county, and later entered Hartsville College, where for some time he was a student. Until twenty years old, he lived in Bartholomew county, near Rugby. At the age of twenty, he went to Kansas and was there engaged in the cattle business for four years, or until 1884, when he returned to Bartholomew county and settled again near Rugby.

One year later, at the age of twenty-five, Mr. Galbraith was married, on September 1, to Mary Butler, who was born in Bartholomew county, Indiana, in 1865, and who is the daughter of Frank and Susan (Woodard) Butler. Mrs. Galbraith's father was one of the largest stock and fancy



farmers in Decatur county, where both he and his wife spent practically all of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Galbraith have one son, Frank E. Galbraith, who was born on September 11, 1886, at Rugby, Indiana, and who attended the country schools of Bartholomew county. In 1900 he moved with his parents to Sunman, where he still lives. In 1914 he was married to Bessie Grossecrouse.

After his marriage, Francis I. Galbraith removed to Rugby, where he engaged in the grain business for about one year, but he afterwards removed to Burney, Decatur county, where he and his father were engaged in the grain business and in stock shipping until 1900. At this time Mr. Galbraith removed to Sunman, Indiana, and there engaged in the hardwood lumber manufacturing business with William E. Talbert. Seven years later, Mr. Galbraith purchased Mr. Talbert's interest in this business and took into the business as a partner his son, Frank E., who was made manager and who still retains this position.

In the fall of 1912, Mr. Galbraith came to Indianapolis and assisted in the organization of the old Indiana State Bank, which has since been reorganized and renamed the Commercial National Bank. Mr. Galbraith was vice-president of the old bank and retained the same position in the new organization, the Commercial National. He owns one-half interest in the Ray & Galbraith Commission Company, located at the Indianapolis stockyards, and is also operating two large cotton plantations in the delta lands of lower Louisiana. Aside from these interests, he has large real-estate holdings in Indianapolis, especially flats and houses.

Mr. Galbraith is a stanch Democrat, and has always been faithful to his party. He has contributed liberally to the financial side of the party, and during the legislative sessions of 1909 and 1911 served as a member of the House of Representatives from Ripley county. He took a leading part in the sessions of the house and was considered one of its substantial members. In 1909 the Democratic party had come into power for the first time in many years and, although the opposite party maintained its control of the Senate, the Democratic party had a substantial majority in the lower house. Mr. Galbraith was a part of this majority and assisted in framing much of the important legislation which came from the General Assembly that year.

Mr. and Mrs. Galbraith are members of the Methodist church. Mr. Galbraith is a Scottish Rite Mason, a Shriner and a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks at Greensburg. Although having wide interests scattered over a great deal of territory, Mr. Galbraith makes his home in Sunman, Indiana.













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